

BUSINESS CIRCLES

A very pertinent inquiry has arisen in the minds of the apparently few men who have the financial welfare of this city at heart as to the legitimacy of the action of the city council last Monday night in awarding the \$534,000 refunding bonds to Green & VanDuyn. Just incidentally, how very few business men there seem

to be in Lincoln who will get out and rustle for the city even to the extent of public disapproval of and remonstrance against such aldermanic methods as those practiced in connection with this bond deal. Even if the best business talent of this city—and there is a good deal of such talent here—which stands for sound principles and careful methods and above all for integrity in business, will not interest itself in municipal affairs to the extent of taking active part

in the management of the city's affairs, it could at least create a public sentiment that would put an effectual stop to such transactions as the refunding bond job. One of the most righteous acts of Mayor Wier's administration has been his persistent veto of the award of these bonds. It is to be hoped it may prevail. It seems that Green & VanDuyn offer to sell a $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent bond for a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or something over \$13,000. Another house offers to place a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent at par to the city. A third firm offers to sell the bonds at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent with a commission of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or about \$5000 less than Green & VanDuyn's bid. No doubt an open sale would have brought

out still better bids. There is absolutely no question but that the city could have made a sale at $4\frac{1}{2}$ and no commission, for such an offer was made at the council meeting Monday evening. The commission amounts to over \$13,000 and the difference between the $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{3}{4}$ bond makes a further saving of considerably more than that amount, altogether about \$30,000. Now what does the council do? It offers the bonds at public sale and advertises to that effect. It gets a representative of a Boston house way out here from Massachusetts for the express purpose of bidding on these bonds. This same representative, when he put in his appearance the night of the sale as advertised and offers a bid, is calmly told that "another man is buying these bonds," and forthwith the honorable city council sells the bonds for the trifling sum of \$30,000 more than the lowest bid. The vital point seems to be that there is \$13,000 commission in the sale to Green & VanDuyn. This commission presumably, goes to Green & VanDuyn. That seems to be the situation in a nutshell. The vital point for the taxpayer seems to be that he pays the freight while the council indulges its propensity for "sweet charity" presumably toward Messrs. Green & VanDuyn. The business men of Lincoln might profitably take a brace unto themselves as to their interest in city government. They might profitably re-arrange the wood-pile and expose the gentlemen of color therein contained. It is said that cleanliness is next to Godliness and the best thing for

Lincoln would be a thorough financial house-cleaning.

As a rule there is only one thing that will arouse the ordinary business man and cause him to take any notice of municipal affairs, and that is excessive municipal taxation. That people outside of ward politicians are asking, who is to be the next mayor and who is going to represent us in the council? shows that taxes are beginning to pinch harder than usual, and there is without doubt a general feeling of distrust and dissatisfaction with our present government.

The municipal corporation instead of selecting its best men and largest stockholders to transact the business of the corporation selects its board of directors (the council) from its smallest stock holders, sometimes men who own no stock in their own names whatever, and who are far from being the most capable and best fitted to attend to the affairs of a great company. In fact, in many cases they are men who have made conspicuous failures, not only of other people's business but of their own. The president of the board of directors (the mayor) is not one of the largest stockholders, one most interested financially in the economical management and success of the company, not a man of large business experience or a man with a mind broad enough and a character firm enough to successfully manage and direct a corporation larger than all the private companies in the city put together. No, he is more often one

of the smallest stockholders, a ward politician, an unsuccessful business man, whose sole fitness for the important office is his ability to control a city convention or to get votes. Compare if you will the present mayor and council with an imaginary lot of officers which might be elected, if nominated: Mayor, ex-Gov. Nance or Hon. C. H. Morrill; such men in the council as I. M. Raymond, Eli Plummer, N. S. Harwood, Al Hargrave, J. C. Harpam, Wm. McLaughlin, S. H. Burnham, J. D. Macfarland, Fred Schmidt, Judge Field, J. H. Harley or fifty others who might be named. If men of this class would take hold and run this city for a few years taxes might be reduced, or at least there would be no



Mrs. Youngwife—Will you have this fresh bread? I just baked it.
Wayside Willie—Couldn't think of it lady. I'm afraid y ur kindness would kill us.

more talk about "jobs."

ADDITIONAL BASE BALL.

Manager Ebright has signed Pitcher C. F. Fisher, whose home is in Louisville, Ky. Fisher is twenty-seven years old, stands five feet nine inches and weighs 164 pounds. He pitched for Buffalo in the eastern league in '91 and at the end of the season he was sold to the Cleveland National league team for \$500. He was traded or sold to the Cincinnati club soon after the season opened but not being in good health did not participate in many games. Manager Ebright is to be congratulated on getting this player as several of the eastern clubs wanted him. While he did not prove as good a pitcher as Rusie in the National league he should be one of the leaders in the Western Association. We now have six pitchers under contract, namely, Fisher, Barnes, Kimerer, Simons, Gragg and Myers and it does seem that out of the six Manager Ebright should pick three who are winners. Barnes, Gragg, Myers and Fisher are professionals, while Kimerer and Simons are amateurs. If Jakey Strauss is awarded to Lincoln we will have fifteen men under contract.

Omaha has signed Pitcher (C. F.) of Jacksonville.