

The Plattsmouth Journal

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Prosperity has again struck the railroad shops here—more men laid off this week.

Politics will soon warm up in great shape. Look out for great doings after the St. Louis convention.

The republicans are very quiet on state politics. They have a heavy load on their shoulders in trying to carry the midget governor through, and they know it, too.

While extolling prosperity don't let us forget that the public debt was increased by three millions of dollars last month. This is surely a strenuous administration under which we are living.

The midget governor is in a hot box and don't know how to escape the ire of the people and railroad magnates both at the same time. It is a "you'll be damned if you do, and be damned if don't" case with Mickey.

From the tone of many of our exchanges one would judge that ex-Congressman Shellenberger was the coming man for the democratic nomination for governor. He made a good record in congress and will make a good state executive.

By a vote of three to two the state board of equalization decided not to tax fraternal securities and reserve funds. By this act the board practically ignored the opinion of Attorney-General Prout, who decided that the lodges were subject to taxation.

EVIDENTLY republican prosperity has struck the Burlington railroad a pretty severe jolt in the past few months from the way they are laying off employes. Perhaps it may be caused from Teddy's "strenuousness." They don't usually lay off laborers during prosperity waves.

NEBRASKA'S new revenue law, it is believed, will be the big issue in the campaign this fall. From present indications the law will prove to be one of the most unpopular measures ever adopted by a Nebraska legislature. However it has many friends who are confident it will work out well, when its provisions are better understood.

If everything would go off harmoniously at the St. Louis convention and Mr. Bryan would accept the democratic nomination for U. S. senator, wouldn't he make the great Blowhard hunt his hole and make him pull the hole in after him? The Journal only hopes such things will occur. Under such circumstances the democrats could carry Nebraska.

THE tin shops in the larger cities are being kept busy now days cutting down the workingmen's dinner pails. The place in the tin pail reserved for meats has been kept empty by the beef trusts and the owners are having them cut down for the sake of convenience in carrying. And Teddy is in the combine to keep the pails empty of meat by standing for a tariff he condemned several years ago.

TOM JOHNSON, of Ohio, says Joseph W. Folk is the most available democratic candidate for president—that he has the harmonizing power. He suits the Journal. And while he would make a chief executive that the eyes of the nation could look upon with pride, he emphatically says he has promised the people of Missouri that he will serve them as governor, and he is going to do it if the Great Ruler of the Universe will permit.

The republican managers intend to stand by the robber tariff in the coming campaign. A defense of the tariff means a defense of the trusts about whose exactions the farmers are complaining so much. The beef trust is giving the farmers and laborers an object lesson that ought to teach them something wholesome in domestic economy. The farmer is getting less for his cattle and hogs and the laborer is paying more for his dressed meats—thanks to the beef trust.

In the appraisal of the tangible property of the railroads the State Board of Railroad Assessment must give tangible proof that it is not owned by the railroads. The proof the pudding is in the eating.—Omaha Bee. Whatever is said good or bad of the Bee editor, his stand on equal assessments of railroads is highly commendable. Edward Rosewater has always claimed that the railroads of Nebraska do not pay their proper share of the taxes, in which he is right. The action of the board on this matter will be eagerly watched for by the people. Midget Mickey is in a bad position—twixt the devil and the deep blue sea.

Some of the most enthusiastic supporters of Midget Mickey recognize the fact that he has a race on his hands, and with a man like Judge Sullivan pitted against him, notwithstanding presidential year, there are surer things than Midget's re-election.

NEBRASKA democrats have plenty of good timber for governor, chief among whom are Judge J. J. Sullivan, ex-Congressman Shellenberger and M. F. Harrington. Either of these gentlemen are so far superior to Midget Mickey that it would be shameful to even attempt a comparison.

The Journal has every faith in the wisdom of the democratic party. We believe, in the first place, that harmony will prevail in the St. Louis convention. After which the democrats of Nebraska will nominate one of their most popular leaders for governor, who will be able to carry the banner on to victory in November.

In case of his election to the senate, Blowhard Burkett has his successor in congress already selected in the person of Ed. R. Sizer of Lincoln. He don't propose that the republicans throughout the district shall have any say in the matter. This displays the egotism of a narrow-contracted brain.

It turns out since the meeting of the republican state convention that previous to that event Blowhard Burkett had promised four or five aspirants for his seat that if the convention endorsed him for the senate he would withdraw and give them a "free-for-all" fight for the nomination for congress. But he now declines to do so, and "h—ll is to pay!"

In one respect McKinley and Roosevelt are alike. McKinley was a very strong advocate of the silver cause until offered the presidency on a gold platform. Roosevelt was strongly opposed to a high tariff until he became president by virtue of a high tariff platform. Republicans should be ashamed to twit democrats for changing their positions on public questions.

PRESIDENT JESSE of the Missouri state university urges the youth of the land to study agriculture in preference to law or medicine, and makes this unquestioned assertion: "If a boy will put the same amount of time and study into his training for agriculture that he would put into his training for law or medicine he will in the great majority of cases make more money, enjoy greater freedom, better health, and develop stronger character."

SAYS the Nebraska City News: "J. H. Mickey was renominated for governor by the Burlington railroad in Lincoln last Wednesday. Can the corporations deliver him enough votes to secure his re-election? That is the question that is now agitating the minds of the republicans who would like to see a complete republican victory this fall. The above question was asked by the South Omaha Independent, a paper that represents the labor organizations of that town. If an answer was necessary we would agree with the Independent that the B. & M. cannot deliver the votes."

THE republican party has troubles of its own just now to settle, and perhaps some of the leaders will have all they can do to look after their own affairs instead of sticking their noses into the affairs of the democrats. Wisconsin is a fair sample of republican harmony, with a split in the party and two candidates for governor. Illinois, after balloting for over a week on governor, took a recess for two weeks, when the war of factions opens again. Yates says he is determined to have a renomination, while his enemies say "nit." Oh, yes, there's so much harmony in the republican party elsewhere, probably they will have a supply to furnish Nebraska. They will need a lot of it in this state by the time election rolls round.

THE consensus of tariff expressions, in republican platforms and by republican leaders, amounts to this: That in the dim future, should the need ever arise, there will be a revision of such schedules as are observed to be excessive; but that there is no occasion for revision now and is not likely to be at any time. The inconsistency of this proposition amounts to an absurdity when account is taken of the general admission that certain schedules are now excessive. Individual leaders in argument generally make the latter admission, but the official and platform statements negative it expressly. But the current republican talk, in resolutions, platforms and perora, has lately reverted to the subject of reciprocity. It here serves even better to illuminate the party inconsistency and insincerity and throws into striking relief the nature and extent of the tariff fraud committed upon the country. The denunciations of reciprocity now heard render especially timely a reconsideration of Dingley bill history.

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A GREAT occasion is offered this year for an exercise of the power of genuine democracy. The national government is in control of a political organization which is un-American and antagonistic to the organic principles upon which our institutions are formed and our social body rests. The republican machine is a perversion of politics and political organization; an arrogation of power by corrupt means into the hands of an exclusive ring; its motive is perpetuation and further consolidation of control and its operation is palpably and directly inimical to rights in the most comprehensive sense. This centralization of power, as it may be called, is corrupt to the very core, essentially, as its pursuits have glaringly exhibited to the people during the eight republican years past. Under normal conditions, armed with proper means, the public is superior even to the most highly developed machines. It remains with democracy to provide the people with an effective instrument for undoing the machine and releasing and distributing political power once more. It remains with the democratic party to decide this year whether a suitable alternative shall be offered to the voting masses. The eye of the country is turned anxiously upon democracy. What will it do? Will it so solve its small internecked problems as to concentrate all its strength at the polls? Will it lend itself to the plain demands of the people? Inevitably it will suffer if it does not.

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