The Plattsmouth Journal

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THE miners' strike is estimated to have cost Colorado $20,000,000. There are other items of expense which cannot be stated in financial terms.

NO manager of a presidential campaign has ever had a salary. But Cortelyou demands $10,000 for four months' inestimable service. He is the only man in the party equal to the job.

AFTER having been defeated, sunk, bottled up, destroyed and blown to atoms, the Vladivostock fleet seems to be still afloat after having sunk seven Japanese vessels last week, carrying down 1,000 men.

ISN'T it a little inconsistent to send warships to Morocco to rescue a kidnapped millionaire and allow a state to bear a score of poor men from their homes and deport them? Does the fact that Perdicaris is wealthy make any difference?

THE fear that Mr. Roosevelt is now planning for 1908 is the most disturbing thing in the minds of politicians and has much to do with their discontent. Many believe that he will hold on to the office of president just as long as he can.

REPUBLICANS are appalled at the entire absence of enthusiasm at the Chicago convention. It behooves the democrats to make a judicial nomination. Wisconsin is virtually conceded to them, while Illinois and Indiana are spoken of as very doubtful.

D. E. SALMON, chief of the bureau of animal industry in the U. S. agricultural department, says that the reason why beef is higher is that the sellers charge more for it. It's fortunate that Uncle Sam has at his elbow a great head like this to elucidate economic questions.

THE plank which Senator Hansborough proposed for the republican platform is "An early readjustment of the rates in existing tariff schedules to meet the changed and changing conditions, and in the interest of our commercial relations with each other." The democratic platform will no doubt contain something like it.

THE Russian-Jap horror goes on expanding every hour. Five Japanese transports were sunk last week by a Russian gunboat, and 1,000 men were drowned. A single shell killed 200 men on the Hitachi and it is estimated that 100 more committed suicide. And we look calmly on. Are human beings much more civilized than tigers.

A GEORGIA community saw a picture of Grover in the clouds one moonlight night last week, and enthusiastically hail it as a sure sign of his election to the presidency. All of which goes to prove that the good old days of moonshine whisky are gone forever. "Boughten licker" is all that could produce such a result as that.

IMMIGRATION has reached flood height. Europeans are pouring into New York at the rate of 1,500 a day. Some of them are miserably, pathetically poor. For this crime the administration is driving them back, some thousands being deported every week. All parties should seriously consider whether this policy is a wise one. How many millions of our citizens were immigrants without five dollars in their pockets when they landed?

RINGMASTER CORTELYOU: The candidate will now descend from the elephant and perform his world-famous stunt, known as the Risque act. He will first appear as the Man of Action, next as the Strenuous Public Official, next as the Ambidextrous Orator, next as the Daring Soldier and finally as the Gushing Nominee. The last impersonation will be given on the elastic High-Tariff Wall, from which he will rebound to the elephant, a ferocious wild animal that has been tamed into complete submission by Me and My Friends. Keep your eyes on the movements of the candidate.

SECRETARY TAFT makes amicable reply to the Philippine Independence committee of Boston, etc., saying that the president is moving in a fixed direction, and is only waiting "to be absolved, by the expiration of his present term, from his obligations with regard to the policy of the late president, in order to bring about at least the partial independence of the Philippines." This seems much like a deliberate attempt to take the wind out of the sails of the democratic convention of July 6, which will undoubtedly demand for the Philipines that which has been accorded by us to Cuba. Thanks, Taft. But where does this leave McKinley?

THE republican party is still protecting the American home—with the trusts on guard.

NOBODY had any difficulty in forecasting the republican ticket and platform. Roosevelt and THE TRUSTS.

CARTER HARRISON SMITH proclaims Roosevelt as "the whole platform." There's plenty of room underneath for the supporting sycophants.

THE vice presidency is a big office, and it is related that Fairbanks could not dodge the nomination. He'll not have to practice gymnastics to dodge votes in November. On the Fairbanks of the Wabash it will look more like Salt River.

POSSIBLY the reason for so few portraits of Roosevelt appearing in Chicago Coliseum was that the committees were not advised whether he should be pictured in military uniform or in the suit of a capitalitalist or in the garb of a politician. Roosevelt is "a good many" in his various attitudes to try to "fool all the people."

THOUSANDS of articles are being written this week calling for punishment of the criminal negligence which made the General Slocum disaster possible. It should not be difficult to locate the blame, inasmuch as no steamship can leave any wharf in the country without a certification of safety and seaworthiness signed by the inspectors of the department of commerce and labor. Is the prevalent indignation to be allowed to blow over without calling anyone to account for the horror?

GOVERNMENT reports of last week announce that the cost of living is reduced, because the price of a majority of the necessities of life are cheaper. While beef, mutton, lard, butter, wheat, corn, oats and sugar have gone up, other necessities, like pig-iron, leather, copper, tin spelter, and hair cloth have gone down. All that the workingman has to do is to accustom himself to making a dinner of these last named materials. Rent costs him more than it did, but he never could buy a steam yacht or an automobile, cut flowers or silk underwear as cheap as today.

THE administration is distinctly responsible for the General Slocum disaster, and must be held responsible. The U. S. Inspection service when it issues a certificate to a steamboat practically insures the lives of the people who use the boats. It is notorious that government inspectors are bribed and that they sometimes blackmail rich corporations. Assistant Secretary of the Treasurer Armstrong testifies that a United States senator urged him to remit the fines imposed on a steamboat last year, and it is known that congressmen have frequently interfered to prevent the exaction of fines. Who was the senator? Where the blame rests is obvious enough. For once it cannot be laid at the door of Tammany.

FROM the beginning of our government, from the time of Hamilton and Jefferson, there has been a constant struggle between the two schools of politics, one holding that this country was a nation and the other that it was a confederation of states. Sometimes one of these schools has been in the ascendency and sometimes the other, but there is no doubt of the steady, and in recent years rapid, development toward centralization of power in the national government.—Wall Street Journal.

The editor of the Journal has frequently pointed out this fact in recent years, but there has been a few damphools who pooched at the idea and passed it up as a political scarecrow to win votes. Such persons cannot make the same reply to the above admission of the great Wall street advocate of the present administration, for it is of the same political faith they are. We are pleased to be able to give this proof that the centralization of power in the national government as contemplated by Hamilton is now going on and that unless many republicans cut party lines the time is approaching when the Empire will be a fact, then it will be too late.

THE republican prosperity shouters must now come down off their high perch and admit that their party cannot maintain prosperity even with the assistance of good seasons, bountiful harvests, an indulgent Providence and foreign wars. The condition in the east is nothing but a repetition of the boom gambling period just preceding 1892. They laid the '93 panic to the election of a democratic president. They have another opportunity to do the same act: but is there anyone foolish enough to be fooled twice by the same fake story? The eastern trust gamblers have had their run and made millions out of the easy Marks and now they will turn off steam and let the gutted old hulk drift with the tide, which has set in and will shoal all the small fry. It surpasses anything that can be found in the history of the last 2500 years: the way the tariff grafters and trust combines are able to fool a majority of their victims year after year, and the latter appear to want to be fooled some more.

The Chicago Convention.

The thing has happened. There was no heat in the plan and no enthusiasm. The programme outlined weeks ago by a half dozen men, representing all of greatness and dignity of the republican party has gone before its representatives assembled, smothered and laughed contests into the plans of the machine, offended several states, notably Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri—in short, settled things one way, regardless of what the people of the party may have thought or done, even to the extreme of permitting a southern negro to second Roosevelt's nomination. There were cut and dried things at St. Louis eight years ago, and more of the same, barring the vice presidency, four years later at Philadelphia, but this Chicago convention sets a new standard in gigantic machine management. Cortelyou, he who at one time claimed to be a democrat and sold himself like Paul Morton for a mess of pottage, becomes chairman of the national committee, and will direct the campaign as dictated to by the inmate of the White House.

Mr. Roosevelt's nomination brought forth a burst of cheers, attended by no special enthusiasm. Mr. Fairbanks, the Indiana icicle, was named as planned, the states of Wisconsin and Missouri and Colorado, Illinois and Nebraska having not even an opportunity of presenting the names of their favorite sons.

There were numerous life-long republican present who shook their heads over what happened. When they arrived in the Lake City they were infesting the hotels with an air of cock-sureness that told as plainly as words that the republican party was sure to succeed next November. Some of these men had planks to place in the platform, others were interested in contests that were at least entitled to a hearing, and others had favorite sons to be presented for the second place on the ticket.

Wisconsin is an extreme example of the manner in which the contests were decided. Governor La Follette's managers insist that not only did they not have a respectful hearing, but that they were actually insulted; and the governor's following make no secret of the feeling they bear to the leaders of the party, and there is much talk that it amounts to open rebellion, that will possibly put the Wisconsin electoral vote in the democratic column at the November election.

The Indiana men went to Chicago without any definite plans for the nomination of Fairbanks, not seeming to care whether he was brought to the front or otherwise, but a command from the White House made it apparent that Teddy must have his choice, and that settled the business in favor of the Indiana icicle. It is a remarkable fact that when it began to appear that the "drift" had set toward the Indiana icicle, as some Posey county humorist has named him, there was "frost" in the air, and it was not until a band was hired and a half dozen Hoosier delegates marched along the hotel district of Michigan avenue, the band playing "On the Banks of the Wabash," that the least bit of enthusiasm was aroused for the tail of the Roosevelt kite. This was about the time that some evil hand lost no time in circulating the report that Mr. Hitt, a prominent aspirant for the nomination, was so ill that his death might be expected at any moment, whereat there were fresh additions to the ranks of the Fairbanks "boom." Col. E. C. Benton of Massachusetts undertook to inaugurate a boom for Secretary Taft, but the speed with which he was suppressed filled him with astonishment. Waldbridge of Missouri, Springer of Colorado, and our own John L. Webster tried to remain in the race to the last, and their states were loyal to them—so loyal that these three republican camps are not at all happy over the organized inside movement that magnified Hitt's illness, built an artificial boom for Fairbanks and stuck pins into their own boomlets.

Then the apathy of the New Yorkers since they returned to their homes is very apparent. A state that is always high in the councils, noisest with its band and marching clubs, most effective in the conference, was almost off the map at this convention. Odell and his friends and other New Yorkers were not heard except through Black's set speech. They tried to be human, and enliven the session by an adjournment at a time when it was thought proper, but the machine choked them off in a minute by the watch. Their enthusiasm for the ticket may be likened to anything that cannot be seen, heard or felt.

Those participants of this convention who went there possessed of the notion that some sane tariff revision might be good for the Grand Old Pachyderm are not much enthused, either. Some of them are sulking over the smiting received by the Iowa idea, and others are filled with a sort of distress that means a fishing trip next November about election time. Up to the last minute several of these revisionist leaders were deluded with the hope that some sort of a sop would be held out to them, but the inside set of fixers were only playing with the men who were hoping for a revision declaration.

Then the negro incident. One might have guessed that after all of the Booker Washington gossip of the past year the negroes would figure heavily, and with much confidence in this convention, but no one imagined that they would infest the leading hotels, drink with statesmen, brush elbows in lobbies with the best that the convention had to offer in birth and individual importance. A negro (Cummins of Maryland) seconded the nomination of Roosevelt.

The outlook right now is not very bright for the election of the Chicago ticket, and with the proper wisdom displayed at the St. Louis convention next week, candidates will be placed before the people that will snow under Teddy and his tail-end icicle so deep that he won't know whether he is in the White House or situated upon the loftiest peak of the Rocky Mountains.

THE political carpenters at Chicago last week displayed their mechanical genius in the construction of the republican platform. It is a boasting affair, well enough written, but do the republicans hope to further deceive the people? Look at this:

Our administration of the great departments of government has been honest and efficient, and wherever wrongdoing has been discovered the republican administration has not hesitated to probe the evil and bring offenders to justice without regard to party or political ties.

Shades of Perry S. Heath and the postoffice department!

SOME things these days oft remind us
Honest men don't stand a chance,
The more we work there grow behind
Bigger patches on our pants.
On our pants once new and glossy,
Now are stripes of different hue,
All because the trusts rob us
And will not give us what is due.

WATTERSON announces his intention of going to Europe immediately after the election. There are people who would contribute money enough to enable him to go at once.