The Plattsmouth Journal

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Why Not Judge Munger?

The Kearney Democrat says: "If Norris Brown has become suddenly qualified to go to the United States senate because he prosecuted a suit against the railroads requiring them to pay their taxes under the law of the state, why is not Judge Munger become doubly qualified to be sent to the United States senate for applying the law to the railroads? While Norris may have expounded the law to the court, Judge Munger applied the law and prescribed the medicine that the railroads should take. If you are looking for the real agency that laid down the doctrine that railroads, like other people, must pay their taxes in this this state, we desire to point out to you Judge Munger, who said that the law regarding railroad assessment in Nebraska was a good law and that the taxes levied in conformity to that law was a lawful, legitimate and collectible tax.

"Honest, now, who applied the law to the railroads—Norris Brown or Judge Munger?"

Is He Eligible?

The eligibility of State Treasurer Mortensen to election to the office of governor this fall because he now holds a state office, which has been mentioned from time to time, is now taken seriously, in view of the propositions his candidacy has assumed, says the Lincoln Journal, Section 2, article 5 of the state constitution, regarding eligibility of persons to state office, has been quoted heretofore in The Journal. The section closes as follows: "None of the officers of the executive department shall be eligible to any other state office during the period for which they shall have been elected."

This section of the constitution has never been directly before the supreme court of Nebraska. In itself the section might not bar State Treasurer Mortensen from being elected governor this fall and taking his office after the expiration of his term in the office of treasurer. There are grave doubts about his eligibility owing to the fact that in the Boyd-Thayer case the Nebraska supreme court held that a candidate must be eligible to office at the time of his election, not alone at the time he takes possession of the office. The Indiana supreme court has given a decision to the contrary. Under the wording of the constitution it is the belief of attorneys that the supreme court of Nebraska could justly decide either way.

"Big men" must be saved, as party expediency, the leaders declare, demanding quietus on investigations.—The New York Times. There is small difficulty in placing the party responsibility for the heroic financial wickedness of the "big men," the corruption of the McCurdys and McCalls, the Henry H. Rogerses, Rockefellers, Addickses, Depews and others whose spectacular high crimes and misdemeanors have shocked the country in late months. The singular frankness of the republican party in acknowledging the responsibility is possibly prompted by the reflection that it would be folly to attempt to conceal what is already so thoroughly perceived and understood. The "big men" cannot be saved, and they will be a tremendous weight for the republican party to carry in the next general election. Their connection with the party is too plainly identified.

The Hepburn railroad freight bill, which has passed the House by almost unanimous vote, fairly represents the President's demands as set forth in his last annual message. It gives the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to make a rate, absolutely, subject only to review by the courts, which may set it aside if it be found confiscatory or unjust. The overwhelming vote in its favor in the House will probably accelerate its passage in the Senate, where it will have practically the undivided support of the Democrats; but the Senate is a deliberative body and may be expected to debate the bill leisurely.

"Rough Riders."

To what uses meaningless terms are sometimes put is illustrated in the case of the so-called Rough Riders. To secure a Federal office nowadays the best recommendation one can possess is to have been a Rough Rider. The Jeffersonian standard, "Is he capable?" cuts no figure. "Was he a Rough Rider?" is the standard. The antecedents of a Rough Rider applicant are not inquired into, no matter how bad they may be. The recent appointment of a marshal for Arizona is an illustration of the methods that are applied in the matter of making selections from the ranks of the spectacular Rough Rider outfit. Who are the Rough Riders? We are told that many of them were recruited from the ranks of of the cowboys and the ranks of those who made reputations by "shooting up" western towns. What great military achievement stands to the credit of the Rough Riders? True, they took part in the Cuban war. We believe they charged upon the fleeing enemy at San Juan hill. How many were killed and wounded in that charge history has not recorded to our knowledge. Indeed if our recollection is not at fault, it was a negro regiment that won the glory that made heroes of the Rough Riders. To the old veterans of Shiloh, Chickamauga, Antietam, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Cold Harbor and a hundred other battlefields the exploits of the Rough Riders appear smaller than the skirmishes preceding the great battles of the civil war. In the entire Cuban war fewer men were killed and wounded than fell in any one of the dozens of the great battles of the civil war. At San Juan hill the 16th U. S. infantry had more men killed outright than the Rough Riders lost in killed and wounded put together. Perhaps it would not have been so had the Rough Riders ridden more rapidly and roughly so as to get right up to the trenches. It is alleged that an officer of the Rough Riders, high in rank, boasted that he had shot a fleeing Spaniard in the back. All praise to his gallantry, and all praise to the Rough Riders that is due them. But it does seem that this Rough Rider business is being worked overtime at Washington. Had the Rough Riders ridden against the commands of Joe Wheeler, N. B. Forest or Jeb Stuart there would be fewer of them to appoint to the best Federal offices today. Why constantly exalt the Rough Riders and never mention the negro regimeut whose dusky-skinned sons helped them win fame? Where is our worthy President with his "square deal" for every man?

This is the anniversary of one of the greatest statesmen in the history of the republic—the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln. In commemoration of the event, the city schools were dismissed for the day. No chief executive ever experienced the trying ordeal as did the lamented Lincoln.

Our Uncle Samuel's bad boys at the Naval Academy have somewhat the advantage of him, and he is beginning to find it out. If they are fired from school he will be short of officers to direct the firing of the guns on his big ships. Therefore he may find a good many extenuating circumstances in their naughtiness.

Some people seem to think that there is no hurry about paying personal taxes. The treasurer has been so busy, since the first of the year that collections by distraint have not been pushed, but he is getting things in line, and will get right after delinquents now. In this connection, it may be proper to state that there is no disposition on the part of the treasurer to press collections, but the law makes him personally liable for taxes that he loses through neglect of duty.

Open at Both Ends.

The resolutions offered by Senator Patterson denying the right of a caucus to bind the vote of any senator who does not approve the course of his party colleagues is a timely commentary upon the methods by which republican votes in the present congress have been influenced and controlled by the party bosses.

In denying the right or expediency of such action, Mr. Patterson takes more extreme ground than has been taken by any conspicuous figure in American public life since John Randolph, of Roanoke, wrecked what might have been a great career by his congenital habit of kicking out of the traces of party discipline and co-operation.

But all that Mr. Patterson says of the right and duty of each individual senator or representative to cast his one vote on every question in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience must sound strangely in the ears of the republican members of the house, who since the session began have been surrendering their convictions and casting their votes at the solicitation of the president and the speaker.

In view of the president's efforts to influence, if not actually to control, the votes of members there seems to be a queer inconsistency in setting up in behalf of an administration measure the claim that every member ought to be guided solely by the light of his own intellect and conscience.

The rule that a member must surrender his convictions if they set him against an administration measure and be unrestrained to vote them straight if he is with the administration would be a convenient one for the executive leaders of the republican party during the present session of congress. And yet in view of what has happened and is happening it is practically the rule that Mr. Patterson's resolutions point to. It is too much like the coon trap that was set "to catch 'em a-comin' or a-goin."

We have heard of reform editors, but when a paper comes out and refers to one as a "Reformed Editor," that is a new one on us. Of all the people who inhabit the earth, there are none so little in need of reformation as an editor. In fact, we cannot recall an editor who can be improved upon. Of course we mean an editor, not a broken-winded politician, jackleg lawyer or school teacher, who happens to be placed at the head of a newspaper.

It cost Anna Gould over a million dollars to learn that she had no use of a French count, or rather noaccount. She has commenced proceedings for separation. Serves the girl right, and yet the money snobs appear to be very anxious to purchase bankrupt titles for their daughters. The count appears to be little less than an imbecile. Yet, he bore a title, as many idiots do.

Democratic prospects are looking up both in the state and nation. On the one hand democracy is becoming a harmonious working organization. Democrats appear to realize the necessity for preparation and party work is going on without a sound of discord from any quarter. To reclaim the state convincingly is a purpose which unifies and animates every strength of the party.

The Norris Brown boom has received another impetus by the decision of the supreme court to the effect that the anti-grain laws are legal. Of course the fact that the grain trust is really no trust under the old name to move against, cuts no figure in the matter. Mr. Brown is being boomed for the senate as the trust and railroad candidate, and all of these decisions that can be wrung in, help to boom the boom.

"Everybody works but father," sang a Mormon boy, the son of a father who had five wives and forty-six children. Doesn't look like the old man had spent all his time in idleness.

The shoe men of Boston want the tariff taken off from hides; the wool manufanturers want free wool; they all want free lumber and free coal, but none of them says a word about remitting a jot or title of the tariff on their manufactured products.

The constitutional amendment proposed by the last legislature to create a railroad commission, probably will be endorsed by the next democratic state convention. It would seem that Chairman Tom Allen has so intimated. Railway commissioners will also be nominated.

Some republican papers are guying the democrats because they have adopted the republican idea of nominating a candidate for United States senator. The same republican papers are advocating the election of senators by a direct vote of the people. That was the democratic idea advanced long ago.

An exchange, which appears to be having some trouble with its subscription accounts, is trying to frighten its delinquents into payment, and as a starter says: "Just one minute—the astronomers tell us that a monster comet is heading for the earth with the speed of an express train. Only a few days remain in which to pay your subscription to the News—hurry up, for we don't want to have to trot all over hell to find you."

The Fairbury Journal is in favor of paternalism in the strictest sense, notwithstanding the fact that the Journal is popocratically inclined. It is in favor of the government furnishing insurance at cost. When the government furnishes transportation, freight and passenger rates at cost, supplies us with insurance, why not operate the coal mines and the butcher shops, the grocery store and the bakery? If the government takes upon itself the responsibility of providing for us, what incentive will be left for us to work for ourselves?

"I knew a man once in Tennessee who made a fortune attending to his own business," said Andrew Jackson in the White House to an officious fellow who ventured to suggest to him that a swallow-tailed coat would be the proper attire for a certain state dinner to be given that evening. It may be added, in parenthesis, as it were, that Jackson presided at the dinner in faultless attire, but his adviser did not soon forget the rebuke. Thoroughly in keeping with this Jacksonial policy of attending strictly to one's own business is the vote of democrats in the United States senate caucus to oppose the confirmation of the president's Santo Domingo treaty. It is none of our business whether the creditors of Santo Domingo get their money or not. We did not advise them to put their money there, and did not in any way guarantee its repayment. We do not even know that the claims are just, and we may be doing the Dominicans an injustice by segregating half the receipts of their custom-houses to be held in New York banks subject to the edjudication of the claims.

Get Busy.

Several weeks ago, in response to the suggestion of the Plattsmouth Journal and The Herald, it was announced by Chairman Allen, of the democratic state committee, that the committee would soon arrange for a monster democratic love feast, to be held in the auditorium in Lincoln or Omaha. The Herald begs Chairman Allen to get busy. A meeting as proposed would do much to promote the already active growth of democratic sentiment in Nebraska. There is in the minds of the Nebraska democrats a splendid hope for success all along the line this year. The success can be best assared by a closer union between the party workers throughout the state. At such a meeting as proposed an enthusiasm could be awakened which would be carried to the remotest townships. Get busy, Chairman Allen!—Fremont Herald.

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