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Congress is preparing to take up the cudgel and go after Theodore First. There are a number of congressmen and others who are smarting under his rough accusations and they promise to make things lively when they get started.

The move to investigate the title of Governor Sheldon's appointees to the state supreme court will meet with a popular chord. The people of Nebraska really are entitled to know who declares the result of election so far as constitutional amendments are concerned. If a governor can declare a constitutional amendment carried then there is no reason for the legislature canvassing the result at all and if it is the deciding body then he has no business appointing until the result is declared.

The supreme court of the United States has finally put the federal government out of the trust busting business so far as the Standard Oil Company is concerned. In an opinion handed down Monday, the justices decided that the government was wrong in its contention in the \$29,000,000 fine case. The government sought to have the finding of the circuit court of appeals set aside by the supreme court which was refused. It seems dead easy to send some labor "agitator" to jail but almighty hard to even fine a life sized trust.

It will be several days before the legislature gets down to business, the preliminary work occupying usually the first week of the session. After the several messages have been disposed of and the organization of the two houses concluded, comes the deluge of bills with pet theories and ideas from practically every member and this usually takes several weeks after which the sifting and grinding out process is called into action. It can be set down as a safe proposition that it will be close to three weeks before any substantial progress in the direction of needed legislation will be made. But at that it is better to take time and do things slowly and right than to waste time by rushing through imperfect and bad legislation.

Lincoln is modest. She says she is not asking for an appropriation to build an addition to the capitol building. In fact she does not want an addition built, but what she does want is an entire new structure probably one that would put New York or Pennsylvania completely in the shade. When the main building of the university was first built, it was only a short time before the cry went up that it was unsafe and it was necessary to put in a new foundation; then the insane asylum was in such condition that it was destroyed by fire, and that it was one of the blackest crimes that ever disgraced Nebraska. Now it is the capitol building that is too small, that shakes with the wind, that is considered unsafe, representative hall not being strong enough in which to hold the inauguration ball. Truly there seems to be something rotten in Lincoln.—Nebraska City News.

In the damage suit case of the Herald editor against G. W. Leidigh of Nebraska City, now pending in the district court of Lancaster county, E. J. Murfin of this city, claiming to represent the defendant, offered us \$200 in settlement last Saturday but the offer was indignantly spurned. Money is a small consideration with some men in this world. Honor, dignity and sensibility have a strong place with some men that money cannot touch and no amount of money alone could assuage the beastly indignities heaped upon us, me and my family, by the defendant in this case during our pleasure trip to our old home last fall, and it was adding insult to injury to make any such surreptitious proffer. Some men have exceedingly vague conceptions of manhood.—Lincoln Herald. Since the above was written Editor Huckins

settled for \$250. That additional fifty seems to wipe out some of the beastly indignities referred to.

Senator Banning of this county, was selected as one of the committee on employes by the democratic caucus. This should enable this gentleman to take care of one or two Cass County people at least as it seems to be the studied policy of the governor and his advisors to ignore this section.

President Roosevelt's thunderings against the various republican politicians around Council Bluffs and Omaha, make mighty interesting revelations for the people of this section. It would appear from what he says that there are mighty scant honest office holders in the federal ranks in this section. The thing to have done would be to turn the whole bunch out and put in some democrats, then this scandal never would have taken place. However, it is only a republican housecleaning and that is quite common.

The attempt of the republican papers in the state to stir up trouble among the democratic members of the legislature will fall flat. The Omaha Bee in particular, is starting the campaign with great vigor, proclaiming to the world that the session "Starts With a Row" when a careful study of the proceedings will convince anyone that the row is purely imaginary with the bright young men whom the Bee has upon its legislative staff. There is no row nor will there be any. This legislature is going to avoid that very thing and little Vic might just as well get ready to drop this line of talk. The State Journal has also detected a plot to "seize" the supreme court. The fact in this case is that Governor Sheldon at the behest of political tricksters who seem to be able to control his actions ever since the people turned him down, has already exceeded his authority and packed the supreme bench with republicans. All the members of the legislature have ever tried to do is to protect their constitutional rights in the premises, and if they do that they are but doing their duty. If the control of the supreme court would pass to the democrats as a result, it is a purely incidental one. No there will be no row nor do the democrats intend to "seize" anything they are not entitled to. But they do intend to assert their constitutional rights whether it suits Victor Rosewater, the State Journal or Governor Sheldon.

Governor Shallenberger.

Today Governor Ashton C. Shallenberger commences his administration of the governor's office. He enters upon the duties of the office under circumstances which should enable him to make an exceptionally good executive. Sustained by a democratic legislature in both branches, there seems no reason why the new governor cannot secure the needed legislation to make his administration a complete success.

He is recognized by even those who opposed his election last fall as a level-headed, safe and conservative man. He has no wild or erratic ideas on government so far as has ever been known. Yet he has that sense of fairness and honesty in him, which will enable him to weigh carefully the rights of the people as against the pretensions of any special interest. It was the confidence of the people in his good judgment at the time when a crisis should confront the state which led to his election.

There is no doubt that his lead will be followed by the members of the legislature unless he should unexpectedly turn out to entertain ideas at variance with those upon which he won his election. In such a case the members of the legislature are thoroughly capable of making him stand to his guns and carry out the precepts of the democratic platform.

Governor Shallenberger's predecessor was in many respects a most excellent man. His administration was the most progressive republican have given the state and the very elements which went to make his popularity were those filched from the democratic platforms. Since his defeat he has done many things which tarnish his record but previous

to his taste of the bitterness of defeat, he had done many things which were commendable. It remains to be seen whether Governor Shallenberger heeds the lessons of Gov. Sheldon's waning popularity, and listens to the demand of the people for a clean people's administration.

The Journal believes that Governor Shallenberger is too wise not to see his opportunity, and it does not hesitate to predict that he will make good and give the people of Nebraska a genuine democratic administration.

The Message.

The message of Governor Shallenberger is one which commended itself to every citizen of the state of Nebraska. It rises to the plane of a broad, statesmanlike document and in its recommendations to the legislature it follows the lines of the democratic platform and shows that the new governor is determined to see that the pledges which he and his party made to the people are carried out to the letter. This is as it should be. The people when they elected a democratic governor and re-inforced him with a legislature of his own kind of politics meant they expected the legislation demanded by the democrats, and he does no more than right in hewing to the line of these demands and insisting they be enacted.

Upon the question of bank guaranty, the governor is full and explicit. He favors a bank guaranty act which "will make every dollar deposited in a Nebraska bank, absolutely sure of its being returned to its lawful owner upon demand." There can be no clearer or ringing demonstration than this. It provides that immediate and prompt payment of deposits shall be a feature of the law which is the only question upon which the legislature bids fair to argue. He makes other recommendations which relate to the banking laws, which are good and pertinent and which are all designed to aid in securing the safety of the people's funds in the banks.

He refers to the present system of electing assessors by the entire county and makes a declaration in favor of the return to the system of electing precinct assessors. This was one of the planks which aided so largely in carrying the state last fall and which meets with the full and candid approval of the people. He also favors limiting the powers of the state board of equalization so that they cannot fix the property valuation and also the tax levy for state purposes as this enables them to levy excessive taxes which may be ate up in extravagant state administration. This also the people will endorse.

He refers to the cost of the state government in the past few years and urges the utmost economy in administration commensurate with the work done. This is another thing which the people endorse.

He favors authorizing the railroad commission to appraise the physical value of public service corporations of the state and to control their debt-making power. If the board has this power already, he favors giving them a sufficient appropriation to enable them to carry these powers out. He suggests several good methods by which this appropriation can be raised without resorting to taxing the people for it, any of which are fair and equitable. On this plank, the people are with him and will stand to his support.

He favors home rule for the cities of Omaha and South Omaha, a measure of justice which those two cities were promised in the democratic platform and to which they are entitled.

He suggests reforms in the primary law which are both wise and valuable as there are so many manifest mistakes and errors in the present law as to render it not alone unfair but very nearly worthless as a means of obtaining an expression of the will of the people.

He recommends the creation of a non-partisan board of control for the several state institutions and the taking of the same out of politics and to this recommendation every good citizen can say amen.

There are other good and wholesome recommendations in the message which well repays careful study. It is such a message as one would

expect from as able a man as Ashton C. Shallenberger.—brave, fearless and democratic. It surely reads well and will meet with public approval.

Col. Henry C. Richmond won out a job with the legislature just the same. It is hard to pry Henry C. away from the public trough.

Paul Morton and his rebates and the steel trust and its mergers were all right but Ben Tillman and his suspicious company, and Walter I. Smith and the land sharks were all wrong. Strange and curious distinction.

There is now a real, live, democratic administration in Nebraska, the first since the state entered the Union. No wonder the air seems clearer and more fresh and there are signs of an awakening of nature. It certainly seems good to be a Nebraskan this morning.

If a man isn't a partisan of Theodore First, he had better go in the straight and narrow path or the secret service will get him. Teddy had the sleuth hounds on the trail of Senator Tillman it seems. It is well for the sleuths that Benj. R. didn't know it at the time or there would surely have been some lurid headlines in the papers. What he would have done to Theodore and his minions would have been something scandalous. And he may let out a little yet.

That juries do not always err is proven by the action of the jury in the trial of Mrs. Erb and her sister Mrs. Beisel for the murder of Capt. Erb, at Media, Pa. From the very full extracts of the evidence published in the press it was evident that the slain man was one of violent temper and dangerous moods and it is equally plain that at the time he was killed he was attempting to kill Mrs. Beisel and was slain in the attempt. The acquittal was a measure of justice clearly.

The movement now on foot in congress to increase the president's salary will not likely meet with much opposition. In these days of huge salaries for able men, the salaries paid government officials, especially the presidency, are very small. It is no more than commensurate with the dignity of the position that a salary of one hundred thousand dollars per year be paid the occupant of that high position. It is not believed that the people would oppose this increase.

The trial and conviction of eight of the parties accused of participation in the night rider outrage in Tennessee, ought to have salutary effect upon the lawless element which has been making that part of the country literally a hell on earth for several years. It now remains to see that the majesty of the law is vindicated by the execution of these condemned murderers. If the men could be convicted in that locality there can be no doubt whatever of their guilt and their speedy execution is necessary to make the decree of the court effective.

The cheering intelligence is given by the press today that Messina has now plenty of provisions and clothing for its stricken population. This is good news and everyone can rejoice with our Italian friends that some measure of relief has been given them. It is largely to the credit of America and its aid societies that this has come about. The public subscriptions coupled with the donation of the federal government, has made this country easily the leader in the relief work and the Italian government has not been slow in recognizing this fact.

Press dispatches this morning assert that Senator Wm. J. Stone of Missouri, will be re-elected, the expected contests by which the republicans hoped to obtain control of the legislature and defeat him having failed to materialize. This is quite just. Senator Stone has made a good senator for Missouri and the nation despite the charges which have from time to time been made by so-called reformers. He made a gallant fight in Missouri and won a deserved victory. Had the democrats of the state paid more attention to the vet-



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eran leaders like Stone and less to J. W. Folk and other reformers of his ilk, they would likely be in complete control there now.

Senator Culberson of Texas is attacking President Roosevelt's subservience to the steel trust merger, struck a popular chord. The senator quite rightly characterized his action as "another arbitrary and lawless act of the chief magistrate" and founded his opposition to such actions upon solid ground. It is to be regretted that there are no more Culbersons in the senate to attack unwarranted and lawless proceedings of the president or any other officer who oversteps his authority.

There can be no doubt but what the recent cold snap in the large cities would have proven much worse and caused a great deal more suffering had it not been for the numerous charitable societies and institutions which have been engaged in preparing the people for it. Every large city now boasts of numbers of such societies which do a great deal of good and there are a world of philanthropic people who spend much time and money in taking care of the needy. The poor we will always have with us and as long as men and money exists there must be good souls to stand to the fore and avert as much as possible the bitterness of winter.

The astonishing information which President Roosevelt has given the senate to the effect that he passed upon the merger of the several steel companies with the steel trust, and has decided that the merger was all right and good, and that there could be no prosecution of this trust, should excite deep interest the country over. The steel trust seems to be one of those which Theodore classes as a "good" trust. The Harriman lines and the Standard Oil Company are denounced by him as "bad" because they do the identical things which the steel trust has been doing and of which he has approved. His fine and discriminating judgment is somewhat puzzling to the ordinary flint mind.

The determination of the democrats to force the supreme court to go on record in the matter of Governor Sheldon's appointment of the four supreme judges, is to be commended. Whether the court decides whether he has the power or not, it is a question which the people should have decided once and for all. While many profess to believe that the case cannot be made against Governor Sheldon's appointees, there are still many who hold otherwise among them being many good lawyers, and the question must be settled in some manner so that all may be satisfied. Let the case proceed by all means.

The Omaha Bee is considerably exercised because the new charter bill which will be introduced into the

new legislature makes the fire and police commission appointive by the mayor. It seems to believe this means something terrible for that city. The general opinion is that when the people of Omaha elect a mayor they know whom they want and why they want him and if they had chosen some of Little Vic's henchmen there is no room to doubt but what the charter provision which the Bee now so loudly howls about, would be just to its taste. But there is hardly much reason to believe the democratic members of the legislature will pay much attention to the republican national committeeman from this state.

Sheldon's Vengeance.

There will be more Nebraskans than before pleased that George L. Sheldon's term as governor has ceased after they have glanced over his parting message. Because of its interminable length and dreary prolixity very few will have the patience to read it.

A physical valuation of bachelors and maidens appears to be outgoing governor to be of more pressing importance than a physical valuation of railroads. There should be no marrying hereafter, he thinks, unless the prospective bride and groom shall be able to satisfy a critical man of medicine not only that they are sound and healthy, but that they are capable of producing healthy offspring. Since experience has demonstrated that this latter qualification is not invariably susceptible to proof in advance of the fact, it would have been interesting if Mr. Sheldon had furnished plans and specifications for carrying his ideas into practice. The trend of the ex-governor's argument is plain, however. Had we had two more years of him in the executive chair there would probably have been supplemental recommendations, before the expiration of that time, to properly penalize young married people properly penalize young married people convicted themselves of having deceived the doctor.

Since all those who have proved to be confirmed criminals are confined in the penitentiary or hanged, while the incurably insane are shut up in the hospitals for the insane, and kept there, the need for their "sterilization" is not, at first blush, apparent.

But then, neither is the need for state-wide prohibition apparent. This latter recommendation Mr. Sheldon makes to punish the state for having committed the "crime" of defeating him. It may be his sterilization and medical examination program is a strip off the same bolt of cloth. That is to say, Mr. Sheldon may have worked himself up into such a state of mind that he has concluded that it was the confirmed criminals, chronic lunatics and mollycoddles who deposed him from power, and he wants all of them, together with the brewers, to be severely castigated.—World Herald.

Shaving sets—Gering & Co.