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LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1894.

THE new board of education will hold its first meeting Monday night, when, it is to be hoped, the uncertainty that at present surrounds school matters in this city will be dispelled. Just now teachers employed in the public schools do not know whether they are to be retained or not, and they are equally in doubt as to what the salaries for the coming year will be. That there will be a reduction in salaries is certain, as the financial condition of the district is such that a cutting down of expense is absolutely necessary, and teachers who regard this matter in the proper light will not object to this action on the part of the board. It is probable that salaries of \$60 and less will not be affected. The school board will also, we understand, arrange matters so that the principals will teach, as was formerly the case, and, under the circumstances, there can be no serious objection to this. The newly elected members of the board of education, Messrs. Ludden, Stire and Hackney, have the confidence of the people, and there seems to be a reasonable basis for the hope that the board, after the re-organization Monday night, will come nearer meeting the views of the people than heretofore. There is a good deal of room for improvement.

IN THE face of a general opinion to the contrary THE COURIER ventures the prediction that Mr. Bryan and his friends will be in the minority at the coming democratic state convention. The populist clamor at the silver conference in Omaha was one thing and the sentiment of the democratic party in this state is another, and entirely different thing. Mr. Bryan by openly insulting what might be called straight democracy undoubtedly strengthened himself with the populists; but he opened wide the breach between himself and the party that has twice honored him with a seat in congress, and this breach is steadily growing wider. Mr. Bryan's statement that the populists in the last two years, have taught the people more genuine reform than the democratic party has in the last thirty years can hardly be expected to increase the congressman's popularity among the democrats. If the administration wing is successful in the state convention, as now seems probable, Mr. Bryan will be forced into the populist party, where he properly belongs, and where he will find fit associates. There will be a straight democratic ticket in the field this fall in any event, and the populist party must be sought by the congressman. And when Mr. Bryan is finally and definitely fixed in the populist ranks the logical result of his peculiar course of the last three years will have been reached. He has been steadily moving in this direction since his first year in congress. That Mr. Bryan's career as a populist will be much less brilliant than his spectacular experience as a democrat admits of little doubt.

THERE is some question as to the attitude of the republican party on silver. Prior to the recent meeting of the league of republican clubs in this city an attempt was made to work up a sentiment in favor of the free coinage of silver, but the convention did nothing to

indicate that the sentiment of the republican party in this state is in favor of a policy of retrogression from its accustomed sound financial position. There are members of the party, it is true, who have been more or less affected by the commotion that is in progress in the democratic and populist camps, and who are in favor of letting down the bars to popular prejudice on the money question, thinking that thereby the party may gain in strength; but in all its history, from the day of its inception down to the present day, the republican party has never gained one single point by surrendering its honest convictions and has never carried an election or passed into power by the abrogation of a fixed principle. It has never won victory on a platform of demagoguism. Steadfastness has always been a characteristic of the republican party. Principles have been carefully worked out and the thought and endeavor of the party have been given unremittingly to the development of these principles. The republican position on the tariff and the financial questions is the result of the best thought of the ablest statesmen and financiers this country has seen. It is a position of patriotism and common sense, and nothing has occurred in recent years to change the position of the party on either of these questions, or to furnish any reason to doubt the wisdom of the party's course.

J. STERLING MORTON, a democrat who enjoys a general respect, irrespective of political parties, contributed to the June number of the *Forum* an article entitled, "Farmers, Fallacies and Furrows," the tenor of which is to the effect that farming has degenerated, that farmers are at present in a condition of suffering and distress. Mr. Morton is a man of wide intelligence and common sense, and he is generally given the credit of being honest in his views. His position in the *Forum* article is, therefore, somewhat surprising. It isn't farming that has degenerated, so much as it is that the farmers have degenerated. There are shiftless, improvident men in all classes of industry. There are men who have failed miserably in the grocery business. There are men who have failed miserably in the dry goods business, and in the drug business and in the iron business. But it can hardly be said that the grocery business and the dry goods business and the drug business and the iron business have degenerated and become demoralized, and that a man can no longer make a decent living in these lines of trade. Investigation will disclose the fact, notwithstanding the statements of the secretary of agriculture, that there is today no business so safe and stable, no business that can so readily obtain credit, no business in which independence can be so quickly reached as that of farming. Men who go into agriculture and apply their time and talent to the business succeed almost invariably, and they succeed well. As in all other occupations the farmer has his troubles. Prices fluctuate and rain doesn't always come with clock work regularity; but his sufferings can hardly be said to be unusual. Indeed, many of the troubles and annoyances that afflict nearly every other business man are unknown to the farmer. The farmers of Nebraska as a whole are a standing refutation of what Mr. Morton has said, and of what has been heard so often in the last few years.

TOO DEEP.

"My hands are awfully cold," said the pretty girl, suggestively, as they drove home from the dance.

"Why didn't you bring a muff with you?"

"I did," she snapped, but she wouldn't explain where the muff had gone to and he has been wondering ever since just what she meant.

A NATURAL QUESTION.

Clara—Mr. Castleton tried to put his arm around my waist last night.

Maude—Couldn't he get it around?

A COMMON ERROR OF SPEECH.

She—I've been enjoying very poor health lately.

He—Ah! Your faculty for enjoyment must be very well developed.