

of the state and of other states.

Appropos of the exposition it is of interest to know that a number of prominent commissioners have suggested the desirability of placing Prof. R. B. Owens, of the university of Nebraska, in charge of the electrical department. Undoubtedly the state university will be called upon to contribute to the success of the exposition, and the university is capable of rendering material assistance. Professor Owens' services were utilized in connection with the electrical exhibit at the world's fair, and he enjoys a wide reputation as an electrical engineer.

A convention composed of 1057 delegates, as was the republican state convention recently passed into history, is an unwieldy body, altogether too unwieldy. A convention of this size is easily stampeded. It is more like a great mass meeting than a sober, deliberative body, and its proceedings are much more likely to be influenced by emotion and prejudice than by considerations of wisdom and justice.

It is significant that the fact that one delegate to the democratic convention in Chicago took six drinks of water was telegraphed all over the country as an item of importance.

"To have won and lost is better than never to have won at all." The Honorable Tobias Castor may experience some feeling of gratification as he regards this week's proceedings of the national democratic convention. He did not succeed in having his patron, Mr. N. S. Harwood, and the other select and honorable gentlemen who have sought to uphold Mr. Cleveland's administration, permanently seated as the representatives of "regular" democracy, but he did obtain a fleeting recognition that was as pleasing to the Harwood faction as it was displeasing to the Bryan faction. Tobias Castor is sometimes lightly spoken of in the public press, and sometimes he is abused. He is so thoroughly enveloped in mystery that some people really doubt his existence. But Tobe lives and when it is possible to reign he reigns. He is a great man. He is the Richelieu of the Nebraska democracy, and by democracy we mean real, out and out democrats. Without the tactful manipulation, the shrewd diplomacy, the grim determination of Tobias the remnant of the faithful in Nebraska would not be a compact, orderly body as it is today, but would be disorganized and ineffectual. With Tobias as the guiding star the little band has held together in the most delightful harmony. There's only a few of them left, but they are happy, every one. In the family circle around Tobias, Mr. Harwood beams benignantly on his brothers in what, under ordinary circumstances, would be misery. Andrew Jackson Sawyer strikes his classic heels together in perfect joy. Albert Watkins cavorts about with philosophical dignity. Dan Cook eats crow and imagines it is canvas back. Dr. George L. Miller, as one of the nestors of Nebraska democracy, rubs his hands together, and advises his colleagues in a highly serious manner, just as if the little band really cut some figure. Tobe is the rallying point, the leader par excellence. And he is a good man for the stranded patriots to stick to. If there is any hope in the situation Tobe will find it. If there is anything to be won Tobe will win it. And then, just see what satisfaction he takes in walloping Mr. Bryan! If he can only just give the ex-congressman one slight touch as he runs the gauntlet he may be depended upon to do his best, and it is something to have a leader who can occasionally give Bryan a knock.

In Omaha this week patriotism and common sense prevailed against pusillanimous pettifoggery. Upstarts, pretenders, popinjays and ringsters were defeated and Dave Mercer was made the triumphant choice of the people for a third term in congress. Decent opposition to any candidate is entirely proper, but the opposition to Mercer was disreputable from the start.

ly disgraced had Mr. Mercer been beaten. As it is the republicans of the metropolis are to be congratulated on their repudiation of the tactics employed to prevent the re-nomination of the most efficient congressman who ever represented the Omaha district. Mr. Mercer is personally popular with members of the house and he is in a position to do and has done more in Washington than any other man for the people of the Second district. To have denied him a renomination now, just after his magnificent service in securing the passage of the Trans-Mississippi exposition bill would have been dishonorable repudiation.

Hobart's brief speech to the committee in informal acceptance of the republican nomination for vice president indicates that the tail of the ticket can bark as well as wag. Mr. Hobart is a good deal more than a figurehead, as nominees for vice president often are. The speech was a clear, forcible utterance and was a strong exposition of the principal issues of the campaign. Money was given the most important place, and his declaration on this question was one of the most straightforward and honest statements thus far made by any prominent republican. Hobart has individuality and strength and he will be an important figure, in the campaign, and in public life after the 4th of March next.

Nothing has been settled definitely as to the plans of the democrats and populists for the state campaign, but there will be important conferences within the next few days, and the public will not be long kept in suspense. There is little doubt that there will be fusion. The original plan was for the populists to nominate Holcomb for governor and the free silver democrats to name the electoral ticket, the combined silver-democratic and populist, strength to be cast for Holcomb and the electors so named.

In any event the republicans will have a lively contest on their hands, but the leaders of the party are confident of success. There is a general conviction among republicans that the ticket has peculiar elements of strength that it will draw a large vote. Hedlund and Casey will be particularly strong before the people, and the other candidates are commended by their records. Mr. McColl was not supported in these columns, but there are many republicans who claim that he will be a good vote getter. They say he is particularly strong in Douglas county and has an unusually large personal acquaintance throughout the state, that he will draw support, not by speeches, but by personal acquaintance. We sincerely hope this is true, for we do not want to see a pop or a demo-pop in the governor's office while we are all standing up for Nebraska and trying to make the Trans-Mississippi exposition the biggest kind of a success.

A local paper discourages the attempt to entertain the national association of lawyers on the ground that the city is poor. It says the lawyers are robbers and if any entertaining is to be done they should bear the expense themselves. Lincoln has been cursed by such talk as this for years. There have always been people in this city who have, on one ground or another, opposed every effort that has been made to prove that the town is not asleep, and they have been so often successful that the idea is prevalent that the town is fast asleep. If the lawyers are robbers, as our sour contemporary says they are, it must be remembered that there is a law for the punishment of robbers. Let our contemporary invoke this law or else hold its peace. Lincoln wants the lawyers of the country to come here, as it wants every big meeting and everything else that will make the town and its advantages known.

The morning paper makes a plea for a special rate on corn and other farm products to Chicago as a means of helping the Nebraska farmers to obtain a better price for their crops. It is argued that prevailing prices are so

low that the regular freight rate would leave the farmer practically nothing, and that the crop in this state is, or will be, so large that it would pay the railroad companies to make a temporary concession. There is at least one precedent for such a course in this state and it is to be hoped the railroad companies may decide to grant a second concession at this time.

It has been said that the plan would not work to the benefit of the producer in Nebraska inasmuch as the big operators in Chicago would immediately take off of the selling price a sum equal to the reduction in freights, but there is no danger of that. The operators in Chicago, powerful as they are, could hardly manipulate the selling price of all corn simply because the railroad companies took a few cents off the carrying charge from Nebraska. Here is a chance for the railroads to help the farmers out of a whole.

THE EDITOR.

A WATER CURTAIN.

Latest Device For Fire Protection Invented by a Bostonian.

The "water curtain" is the latest device for the prevention of the spread of fire. It is the product of the genius of First Assistant Chief Regan of the Boston fire department.

The arrangement was given a trial on the R. H. White building in Boston the other afternoon in the presence of several big property holders, firemen and reporters. The experiment was successful in every way and was considered by all a most progressive and up to date device for effective fire service.

The plan is simply this: A pipe is fixed to the building and extends to the roof with a coupling at the bottom to connect the hose from a hydrant. On the other end the nozzle is so arranged that the water as it is forced up is sent out in dense spray in both directions and falls to the ground in an unbroken sheet.

This watery barrier between two buildings should most effectively prevent the spread of flames if it works as well as it is expected to. It is said, however, that the inventor will make an improvement in the nozzle before it is given another trial. But this contemplated improvement will not change the design in the least, but rather will have a tendency to force the water out in greater volume.—Boston Journal.

HE PREFERS SLAVERY.

This Negro Is Satisfied as Long as His Wives Hold Out.

There is a negro in Butts county who finds slavery preferable to liberty. As the story goes about 65 years ago the father of Dr. W. P. Phillips caught a runaway negro in the woods. He was a young and likely ducky who wanted a good master and was willing to serve him. The fact of his promise to stick by the man who bought him, through lashings laid on thick, if deserved, or left off altogether, has been exemplified by his conduct, for he has never deserted the family, and at the age of 96 he has just taken unto himself another wife.

He is yet vigorous, for his bride blushes behind a tawny skin of 36 summers' growth, while she chalks up to the mark of No. 37, so far as conjugality is concerned, but his ideas on the divorce laws and his deference to polygamy would make a Mormon turn a shade greener with envy. It is thought that he has only 16 living wives, though it is not strange that such should be the case, as he hears so much said about "16 to 1" being the right thing.

The old fellow is perfectly content, and wants no better fate than to die "on Marse Dock's plantation," provided the supply of wives holds out.—Atlanta Constitution.

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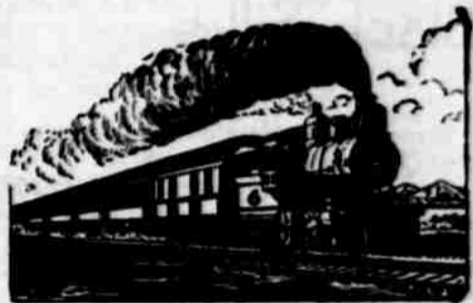
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