

# CONCERNING MEN AND MATTERS

The candidacy of William L. Stark for nomination to the office of judge of the supreme court appeals to us. First, because Judge Stark has the ability that the people should demand of those who sit in final judgment upon suits at law. Second, because the election of Judge Stark would go far towards removing prevalent suspicions that the supreme bench is not wholly free from the taint of partisanship. Third, because Judge Stark's record as a public official is proof positive that as a judge of the supreme court he will give his best service and the full fruits of his ripened judgment to the whole people.

Some little comment is created by the fact that Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is to be one of the speakers at the state fair. It is charged that President Taft sends "Tama Jim" here for the purpose of taking a fall out of Congressman Norris, who opposed Taft's reciprocity program. Of course the state fair managers have no interest in what Secretary Wilson may say; their sole interest is get him here because he will have a marked effect upon the gate receipts. If any of Congressman Norris' friends feel aggrieved or alarmed, the state fair managers doubtless will give the gentleman from the Fifth ample opportunity to appear in his own defense.

Noting the coming appearance of Secretary Wilson the esteemed State Journal remarks that the prime objects of the state fair managers "is to get gate receipts," and adds: "It has offered as much as \$1,000 for a speech by an American, and then failed to get the speech." The name of the speaker has not been divulged, but William J. Bryan refused any compensation for speaking at the fair, just as he has always refused to receive money for any speech delivered at home, or to speak at home on any occasion when an admission fee was charged those desirous of hearing him.

On Tuesday last there died two famous Americans. Of such dissimilar character were these two men, yet so successful each in his chosen field, that much discussion will ensue as to which really achieved the greater success. William P. Frye, senator from Maine for forty years, preferred to serve the people in that capacity, refusing many offers to practice his profession upon the assurance of fees aggregating many times his salary. He was president pro tem of the senate for many years, and virtually became vice president upon the death of Vice President Hobart. He was of the old school of statesmen, dignified, courteous, scholarly and averse to the turmoil so common

in the modern school. John Walker Gates, multi-millionaire steel king, died in Paris at little more than half the age of Senator Frye. His life was one gigantic struggle for money and the power that money confers. To secure money he burned the candle at both ends, and just when he should have been in the prime of life his machinery broke down from overstrain. Senator Frye leaves the legacy of a name that will be honored because of long years of public service; a service without the taint of suspicion. Mr. Gates' legacy is mere dollars.

A very slender string is attached to the senate's approval of the application of New Mexico and Arizona to statehood. New Mexico is required to vote upon a proposition to make her constitution easier of amendment, and Arizona is required to take another vote on the judicial recall proposition. The Nelson amendment demanding that the Arizona recall of judges be stricken out was defeated. It is believed that the president will allow the bill as passed to become a law without his signature.

Representative Kramer of South Carolina, who is opposed to the lower duties on cotton manufactures, declares that if given a cotton mill he could not operate it at a profit under present conditions. Neither could we. Neither could we operate a sugar factory, or a rolling mill at a profit. But there are men who can, and do. We are not a tariff expert, but it is within our knowledge that the cotton manufacturers enjoy about the highest rate of protection, barring only the woolen manufacturers. Despite this protection, levied ostensibly in the interests of American workingmen and women, wages in the cotton industry are the lowest of any in the skilled trades. The average wage of male textile workers is about \$11 a week, and of female textile workers about \$6 a week. Granting that they work full time the year around textile workers, if men, receive about \$500 a year and women about \$300 a year. To allow the payment of this pitiful wage the American people are systematically robbed of upwards of \$275,000,000 a year in the shape of exorbitant prices made possible by a robber tariff. The lowest paid skilled labor is employed by the highest protected industries; the highest paid skilled labor is engaged at trades that can not be affected by any sort of a protective tariff.

State Superintendent Crabtree will resign at an early date to accept a position in Wisconsin. This fact calls renewed attention to the parsimony of Nebraska in the matter of compensating her public

officials. Charged with looking after the vast educational interests of the whole state, Superintendent Crabtree is paid a salary of \$2,000 a year—less than a dozen superintendents of schools receive. Scores of book agents who call on him make more in three months than the superintendent makes in a year. The wonder is that under such a niggardly policy Nebraska has been able to secure so many good men. The state should be the most liberal paymaster.

George W. Perkins admits on the witness stand that the steel trust was a liberal contributor to campaign funds. What the committee is trying to find out is to whom the contributions were made. Doubtless a big bunch was given the republican national committee. It is doubtful if any was given to the democratic national committee, but who doubts that individual candidates for congress on the democratic ticket were generously helped? The steel trust knows no such thing as party.

The selection of General P. H. Barry to be a member of the national board for soldiers' homes is a deserved recognition of a gallant soldier and a splendid citizen. General Barry is the only democrat on a board of twelve. This gallant old veteran has a war record of which he and his fellow citizens are rightfully proud. An armless sleeve and a terribly scarred face bear mute testimony to the sacrifices he made for the flag. It was while serving his fieldpiece at the battle of the Wilderness that he was so terribly maimed, the fieldpiece exploding. In 1870 he came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Greeley county. He was adjutant general of Nebraska during the Spanish-American war, and his work was building up the Nebraska National Guard during that term of service, making it one of the most efficient forces Uncle Sam had during that struggle and the events following in the far east. We are not so proud of General Barry's recognition in this appointment as we are that the government has secured the services of so capable a gentleman and so gallant a soldier.

Judge Abraham Lincoln Sutton of Omaha, candidate for re-election to the district bench, is laid up and prevented from active campaigning by injuries received in falling from a water tank. Mind you, not from injuries received by a fall from the water wagon. Far be it from so! But what puzzles us is, what was Judge Sutton doing fooling around a water tank during a political campaign in Douglas?