

OUR SCHOOL LAWS.

The laws which govern the district school business of Nebraska need overhauling. Nebraska has gone beyond the territorial conditions which made it necessary to work so many of the crude plans which of late have proven a great drawback to the school interests of the state.

We boast of our school system and well we may, but half a dozen states are far in our lead. Many states have found that a township unit instead of small sub-districts, results in greater uniformity of work, prevents penurious majorities in small neighborhoods from voting the more liberal minorities out of a reasonable amount of school at reasonable cost, distributes railroad tax more equitably among those who have helped to pay for the railroads, and secures better local officers than where so large a number is required.

Several states have laws which guard the schools much more thoroughly from incompetent work. The county superintendency has been removed from politics largely, by placing the election in the hands of the district or township school officers. This is a great step in advance. Better men are chosen for county superintendents and, when secured, are retained much longer in office.

Several states see to it that only qualified persons serve as institute instructors. A man is not called upon to instruct the teachers of a county simply because he can secure a list of recommendations as long as the moral law, or because he helped to elect the county superintendent, or because he is so pompous and self-important that he captivates the

young and inexperienced superintendent. Some of the institute work of Nebraska is a positive waste of money, an injury to the tired teachers and a disgrace to the state.

The people's party has made a good start in reforming our school laws. The free text book law is a great step, saving the people thousands of dollars and increasing the efficiency of the schools. Now let the party go on with the good work. Let us have less of politics and more of merit. Let us elect a state superintendent who will have the courage to grapple with the needs of the times when he goes into office, instead of reserving all his recommendations for his final report when he is just ready to retire from office.

The department of public instruction needs a shaking up. Will the people's party lay hold and attend to it? We shall see.

GEN. VAN WYCK is being assailed on account of the railroad bill he introduced into congress in 1886. Anyone who will take the trouble to read the bill through and carefully examine it will find it one of the best anti-monopoly bills ever introduced into congress. Among other things it required that the branches built under its provisions should be stocked at their actual cash value, that the secretary of the treasury should hold the stock, that the rates on all the U. P. lines in Nebraska should be no higher than the average rate between Omaha and Chicago, etc. The bill didn't suit the railroad fellows and it never passed.

If you belong to a glee club, send at once for some of our sheet music songs.

THE PREACHERS WE NEED.

In another column will be found an article signed "Parson." It was written by an active minister of the Gospel. It is certainly timely as far as it goes. But it is exceedingly mild. If the Divine Master had preached as mildly as this "Parson," the world would never have been regenerated. What we need today is preachers who will preach from such texts as the following:

"Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers; therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.—Matt. XXIII-14.

"For ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but are within full of dead men's bones, and all uncleanness." Matthew XXIII-27.

"Go to now ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

"Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth-eaten.

"Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were with fire. Ye have heaped treasures together for the last days.

"Behold the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth; and the cries of them which have reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth;" ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts as in a day of slaughter.

Ye have condemned and killed the just." —James V—1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

We need today ministers who will preach from such texts as these; who will call things by their right names as Christ did; who will tear open the "whited sepulchers" at the risk of seeking new pastures; who will hurl anathemas like jagged rocks at the

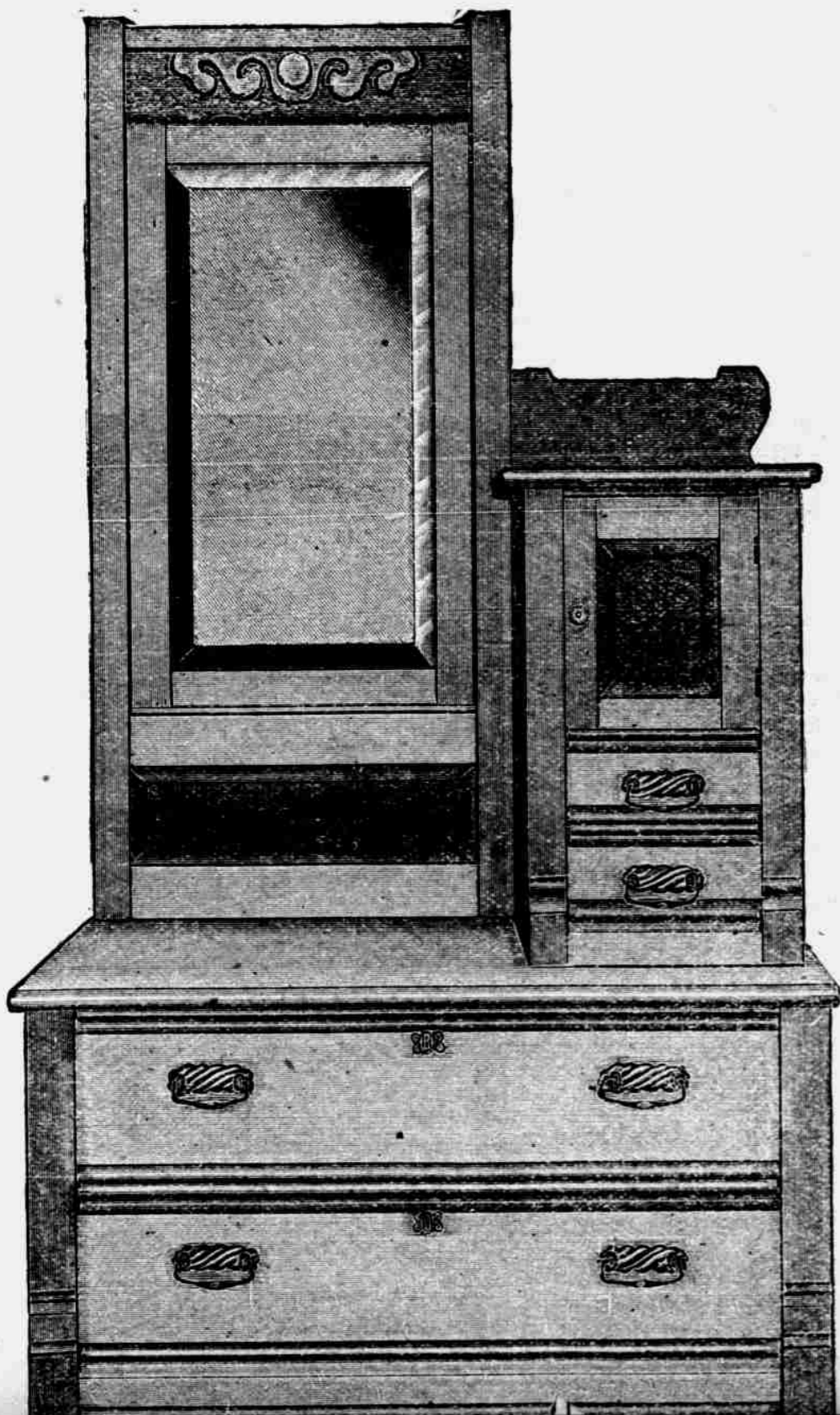
heads of all who "oppress the poor," and "keep back the hire of the laborers."

What the world needs today is the Christianity of Christ, and men who have the courage to preach it.

THE republican papers are constantly commenting upon the independents that have returned to the fold of the republican party, but they studiously avoid giving the public the names of these prodigals. Independent papers have been continually publishing the names and addresses of prominent old party men who have come over to the new party, and recently an article was published giving the names and locations of forty old party papers in one state that have voluntarily gone over to the side of the people. Let the Journal name us a few independent papers that have gone over to the republicans. Let the Journal mention by name a few farmers who have deserted. As to individual deserters the republicans got John Curry last year and Steve Jones and H. C. Palmer this year. This announcement may help their cause a little where these men are not known, but that effect will be more than counterbalanced here where they are known.

EX-SHERIFF D. A. Farrell, who for many years has been a political power in Mills county, Iowa, has renounced what he calls "the Cleveland-Harrison-Wall-street-combination" and joins the people's movement. And so they come.

WITH two such sinkers on his line as Whitelaw Reid and Tom Carter who can be surprised to see Mr. Harrison bob under.



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