

NOT A MATTER OF GUESSING

Dr. Andrews is just as likely to be in error now respecting future gold production as he was in 1896, and his haste in taking an entirely new position in the matter of the money standards is accordingly a little less admirable than Bryan's refusal to budge an inch. No one can quarrel with Bryan for his steadfast loyalty to the bimetallic doctrine. Where he makes a great blunder is in insisting on keeping the question in politics at a time when by common consent it has ceased to be, for the moment at least, of practical force or urgency.

Mr. Bryan is not so free handed as Dr. Andrews. They are both theorists, but they are differently circumstanced. Dr. Andrews made a wrong guess in 1896, and he admits it. Elements he did not perceive have been disclosed. He may guess wrong again, but he will keep on guessing, and he will keep on announcing his conclusions in positive language. But Mr. Bryan is not so free to make a new guess. It means much more to him than it does to Dr. Andrews to say that the thing is off. Mr. Bryan's political opponents within the democratic party are trying to prove that they were right all the time and that Mr. Bryan was wrong all the time. Mr. Bryan does not feel that he can afford to second the motion of the men who "betrayed the democratic party" in the hot and unhappy year of 1896. Otherwise Mr. Bryan might join Dr. Andrews in taking a new start. With him it is more the democratic issue than it is the money issue. Mr. Bryan's situation is unfortunate, but he is doing the best he can under the law of self-preservation. Dr. Andrews is simply a school teacher, and there is little to restrain him from recognizing the merits of a new text book if it happens to find favor in the minds of the patrons of the school and the taxpayers.—Springfield Republican.

Because of a lying report of what Chancellor Andrews said, sent out by a Lincoln correspondent, eastern papers are barking up the wrong tree. Chancellor Andrews' talk to his class had nothing to do with silver as an economic question. He has admitted that bimetallics and monometallics alike were misled by the statements of eminent geologists, as to the probable supply of gold in the future. Mr. Bryan could do the same without prejudice to the cause of bimetallicism, for that is founded on the quantity theory of money—which many monometallics denied until recently—and that theory has been amply vindicated by the increased supply of gold.

That increased supply of gold has decreased the necessity for as large a use of silver as would have existed had the geologists' guesses been correct—but it is by no means an established fact that it has wholly obviated that necessity. The fact that a "silver" commission was recently sent to Europe to "establish a stable price for silver" would indicate that the necessity for greater silver coinage is one that must be met in the near future if serious business troubles are to be avoided.

The materialistic conception of history—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

SPELLING REFORM

Our friend, Dr. C. F. Taylor of the Medical World, Philadelphia, in addition to being one of the most ardent and conscientious populists in America, and the editor of a medical journal that can't be beaten, is one of the boosters for spelling reform. In this age of trusts everybody is looking for a chance to lop off some superfluity here or there and thus save time and expense; and even the spelling reformers attempt to show the immense loss caused by spelling in our absurd way with oodles of silent and superfluous letters.

The trouble with these spelling reformers is that they wholly overlook the psychological difficulties. We recognize words by sight just as we recognize our friends. Smith may wear a superfluous and "silent" crop of whiskers on his face, unsanitary, unsightly, and all that—but we learn to recognize him. One fine day he adopts whisker reform and comes out with his face "bare-footed." It requires a second look before we recognize him, and we become so "rattled" by his changed appearance that for the life of us we can't think of that bright thing we intended to tell him. All we can do is to comment on his changed appearance.

So with thousands of English words. They ought to have their whiskers trimmed. But if we make them all mouth-faced—or even part of them—the principal effect is to destroy the effectiveness of what we say in print, to some extent at least. When the printed page is most easily read, the thoughts expressed are most easily grasped. Anything that tends to distract the reader's attention from the

thread of thought should be avoided. "Fonetic" spelling to a great extent does this very thing.

In these days of linotype machines and rapid printing presses, together with typewriters, the addition of a letter or two is as nothing compared to the strange look of the "reformed" word. Expert linotypers and typewriters would be seriously handicapped by the new spelling. After years of practice, the subjective mind causes the fingers to do their work almost mechanically. Only the lazy and less expert would be benefited.

Undoubtedly, as Dr. Taylor says, "language is a growth rather than a creation," and changes in spelling do take place. But for the present The Independent will peg along in the old style, believing it has plenty of irons in the fire now without adding to its troubles by performing any surgical operations for orthographical appendicitis.

The theory of "surplus value"—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

NOT BLAMING ANYBODY

Why should ex-Governor Poynter blame the democracy for the failure of the populist party to accomplish anything? Why doesn't he blame the populist party for its own folly and recreancy in tying itself up to the democratic party?—Lincoln Daily Star.

Governor Poynter isn't blaming anybody. He is merely taking a look ahead and discussing what populists should do in the future. Besides, there has been no "failure of the populist party to accomplish anything." Aided by the democrats it cleaned out the state house of a gang of republican looters, and was in turn thrown out because the people expected an absolutely perfect administration and did not get it. Handicapped by lack of a strong party paper here in Lincoln to combat the State Journal's lies; by a timidity and fear of republican criticism; and by too much bickering among the different party factions, it was small wonder that the fusionists finally lost.

Catering to various interests to secure republican help, also contributed to fusion defeat. There was not enough backbone; not enough application of Andy Jackson democracy; and republican back-cappers and spies were retained in many departments to the exclusion of deserving and efficient populists and democrats who had helped win the battles. And the last remnant of fusion office-holding in Nebraska—the supreme court—is today continuing the senseless practice of appointing republicans to clerical positions, leaving the inference irresistible that there are no competent populists or democrats for the place—or that the judges expect to be re-elected by republican votes.

If the latter, it is a "pipe-dream" of the most pronounced type. Republican party discipline is too strong for that. Besides, for every vote gained by such tactics a dozen capable democratic and populist fighters are rendered lukewarm. The only way to clean out the republicans is to make them walk the plank; and when they win, let them enjoy the victory—which, of course, they are wise enough to do.

Fusion administration was good; it has never been equalled in Nebraska. But fusion party tactics was and is suicidal.

The class struggle—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

STATE FUNDS

Treasurer Mortensen's balance sheet for May 31, 1903, shows total balances on hand, \$557,859.48, of which he had all except \$3,841.08 on deposit with regularly designated state depositories.

An examination of the detailed statement shows the following trust fund balances: Permanent school\$22,823.03 Permanent university 788.49 Ag. col. endowment 15,831.39 Normal endowment 1,148.15

Total\$40,591.07 Assuming that the \$3,841.08 on hand in the state treasury vault is trust funds, it is evident that Treasurer Mortensen has at least calculation \$36,000 of trust funds on deposit in the state depositories—in violation of law!

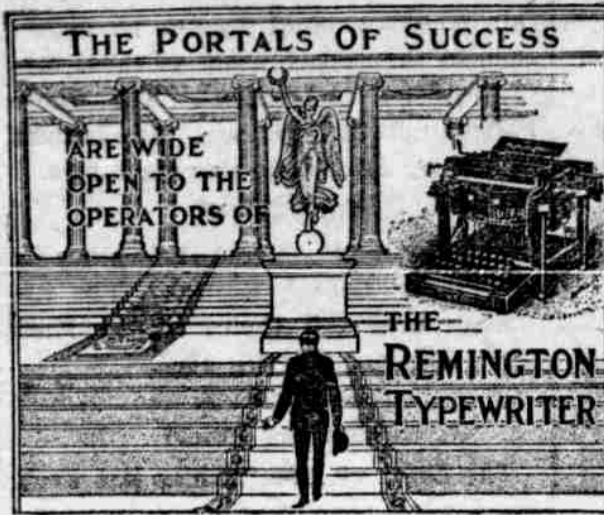
Every banker who accepted these trust funds knowingly as such is technically guilty of embezzlement, as is also Treasurer Mortensen. Such is the beauty of Nebraska law!

THE PORTER CASE

The supreme court has passed on the marks and brands case against Former Secretary of State W. F. Porter and decided (a) that Porter must "put it back;" (b) that Starrett need not; and (c) that Porter's bondsmen are not liable. This is accomplished

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by some wonderfully beautiful hair-splitting to the effect that Porter received the money "under color of his office," but not "by virtue of his office." The marks and brands law of 1899 is held utterly null, and this suggests the question as to what possible claim the state can have against Porter for money which was paid to him without warrant of law? Has the 'Gene Moore case been reversed?

Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

SPECIAL MARKET LETTER

FROM NYE & BUCHANAN CO., LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS, SO. OMAHA, NEB.

This week starts with a boom in the cattle, hog and sheep markets, and market was fully 15 to 20c higher and although Tuesday brought 6,000 cattle the market held fully steady and active. However, it could not keep up with over 6,000 more following Wednesday and weakened from a shade to 10c. Each advance brings heavy receipts and shows the supply to still be large.

We quote best beef steers \$4.75 to \$5.00, fair \$4.40 to \$4.70, warmed-up \$4.10 to \$4.40, choice cows and heifers \$3.75 to \$4.10, fair to good \$3.25 to \$3.85, canners and cutters \$1.50 to \$3. Good light stockers and feeders are selling from \$4.40 to \$4.80, fair \$4.20 to \$4.35, stocker heifers \$3.25 to \$3.40. Bulls \$3 to \$4; veal \$4.50 to \$6.00. Hog receipts moderate. Market has advanced over 30c since Friday. Range \$5.80 to \$6.10.

Sheep receipts light. Market 20 to 25c higher. Killers. Lambs\$6.45-\$7.00 Choice woolled 7.25- 7.50 Yearlings 5.45- 5.90 Wethers 4.25- 4.75 Ewes 3.75- 4.25

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