# The Sioux County Journal.

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J. J. Simmons, - - Editor.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1896.


Capt. V. E. McBee, of Baltimore, recently contracted with Mr. W. J. Bryan for fifty lectures at $1,000 each. A New York syndicate has since offered Capt. McBee a bonus of $25,000 for his contract. The offer was refused.—*People's Party Paper.*

Populist and free silver papers are attempting to keep the people in a state of unrest by calling out that the good times promised by republicans do not come. Such demagogues ought be called down. The administration will not change until March, but if any one will honestly study the financial and business condition of the nation it will be found to be much better than it has been with every indication of continued improvement.

Representative-elect Sheldon is advocating the organization of a new political party to be called the "union" party, in which to gather all who entertain anti-monopoly views. Mr. Sheldon was elected as a populist but he is smart enough to see that through the efforts of Bryan, Jones, Allen and their lieutenants the populist party was been as completely swallowed up by the free-silver democracy as was the the greenback party swallowed up years ago, and all hope of populism as a factor in national politics is gone. Bro. Sheldon is aspiring and should he succeed in his effort to form a new party he might be able to add more gems to his political crown.

One of the results of the recent state election will be a change in the political complexion of the board of public lands and buildings. While the chief executive has not in all cases been of the same political faith as the superintendent of some of the state institutions no change was made because the tenure of such positions rested with the board above-mentioned. And when in first days of the glad new year the newly elected officials get into power, one of the first men who will be called upon to walk the plank will be John T. Mallalieu. He has always been an active, aggressive republican and under the rules which obtain in Nebraska in politics the writer will note that a member of the fusion party is given the place with feelings of both pleasure and pain. Pleasure in the thought that the republican party in putting Prof. Mallalieu at the head of the industrial school and keeping him there did for the state a thing of inestimable value; pleasure because he is too much of a man to attempt or desire to retain his position under the administration of different political officials, but it will pain many to face the fact that the state will lose his services and very likely lose him as a citizen. His work at the Kearney school has demonstrated his peculiar fitness for such a position and he has had numerous offers from other states of similar positions, with the added inducement of politics having nothing to do with it, so it is not likely that he will long be idle and some other state will gain by Nebraska's loss.

Elsewhere in this issue appears an article from the Chadron *Signal-Recorder* concerning the stock laws, and as the editor of that paper is the representative-elect it is of more than ordinary interest. Some of the suggestion and assumptions are good, but there are others to which strong exceptions can be taken. The "optional" feature is peculiarly objectionable as it affords professional agitators a most excellent opportunity to keep the county in which they operate in a perpetual state of unrest, and if Bro. Sheldon was conversant with the early history of Sioux county he would agree with the writer on that point. Again Bro. Sheldon appears, like many others, to hold an erroneous notion as to whom would be most benefitted by free range and who are the ones most desirous of it. Conditions greatly differ from ten years ago. Then the country was occupied by a few ranchmen with many cattle each; now the country is occupied by many men who have a few cattle each and who farm a little also, and in this county that is the class who want free range. The large herds have been gone for years and the owners of fair-sized herds have fenced and care little for a change, but the little fellows could fence what they farm cheaper than they can have their stock herded. In many localities there seems to be one or two who make a point to put out a little crop just to compel the neighbors to herd their cattle. Under the law they have a perfect right to do that but it puts more expense on the neighbors than the crop is worth. In this matter the objective point should be the greatest good to the greatest number and a full and fair discussion will result in good.

Congress convenes on Monday, but it is not likely that much will be done until after McKinley is inaugurated and has called a special session.

The name of A. T. Cady has been mentioned as belonging to the proper man to be made internal revenue collector under McKinley. It is not stated whether or not Mr. Cady desires the position, but there isn't anything that he doesn't deserve if he wants it. He made a most gallant fight, and at a sacrifice of time, money and business and if he wants an appointment there is every reason why he should have it. He is capable of filling a good position and none other should be offered him.

A populist speaker in Chicago a few days ago laid down the following proposition as the line of policy to be adopted by the leaders of that party in their effort to gain supremacy: "Preach discontent everywhere; it is the only gospel of politics." It is a good example of the tactics to which demagogues will resort in hope of gaining their political ambitions. For the past few years while hard times have prevailed people in all walks of life have become discontented with their lot and have, in many instances, turned to politics for relief. To this class, very largely, is the populist party indebted for its strength, to which may be added a large proportion of the extreme advocates of free silver, and from the position of the speaker mentioned above it must be that discontent is to be the battle-cry for the next four years, that the agitators may be prepared for the campaign of 1900. Discontent is a disease which will grow. It is true that few people are wholly satisfied with their lot and it is right that they should not be, else they would be on a par with domestic animals, but for political schemers to systematically endeavor to cause the masses to become more discontented can hardly be looked upon as consistent with good citizenship and may lead to more serious results than the agitators contemplated.

### The Range Question.

Chadron Signal-Recorder.

In regard to the subject of free range the members-elect to the legislature from northwest Nebraska are pledged by resolution adopted at the convention which nominated them to work for an amendment to the present law permitting local option on the question. The only matter to be decided is the form of the bill to be introduced. It is the opinion of the writer that the only fair and just plan of dealing with the subject is to let the farmers themselves decide whether they want free range for the whole or part of the year and under what restrictions, and that the residents of incorporated towns should not vote on the question. In a campaign trip over every county of this representative district the prevailing sentiment was found generally to be against free range, while in some localities there were strong advocates of it among the farmers. The opinion of this paper has alway been that northwest Nebraska would never again become a range country, that in spite of failures in grain farming this country would be more closely settled than it is now by small stockmen who would run 50 to 100 head of stock and would farm, by irrigation so far as possible, but farm anyhow. The editor will be glad to receive and publish letters from any part of this region regarding changes in the stock law. At present his own opinion is the people living in the country are the only ones who should have the power to change the stock laws.

### Sugar Bounties.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

An item of news from Mauritius states that the sugar planters of that island have decided to join with those of the British West Indies in representations to the government of Great Britain regarding the sugar bounties paid by foreign countries. The object in view is to secure some counter action to enable them to compete more fairly with their foreign rivals.

The fact of it is that sugar raising is on a radicalty different footing from any other branch of agriculture. It was just about as the present century was born that feasibility of producing beet sugar was discovered and the genius of Napoleon saw the international importance of this rival to cane sugar. He put a premium in the form of a government bounty, on raising beets for sugar, and that was adopted by the other great nations of continental Europe and is in vogue to this day. For a long time cane raisers did not suffer from this competition, but at last it became almost destructive. If beet-raising Europe hold to the bounty policy, and cane-raising countries do not do the same, the inevitable result will be to very nearly destroy the raising of cane. The Mauritians are justified in their demand, and Great Britain must come to the rescue or see that branch of agriculture wither away.

The latest available estimate of sugar production give the total per year as: Beet, 3,841,000 metric tons: cane, 2,960,000 metric tons. The metric ton is 2,204.6 pounds, almost the same as our long ton of 2,240 pounds. Of this yield Mauritius is credited with 125,000 tons, the United States 265,000 tons, the same as the Philippine Islands. There are no less than eighteen countries in the list of cane producers. The four great nations of continental Europe, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France and Russia, alone produce just about the amount of beet sugar as all the rest of the world does of cane sugar, and they are bounty countries.

The United States has the distinction, so vast is our area, of being adapted to the raising of both sugar beet and cane. If it were not for the competition of bounty-encouraged beet sugar we would soon raise all our own sugar. Or, if our country would steadily off-set the bounty advantages of European beet raisers by a counter bounty on home production, the same result would soon be attained. Nearly all the cane sugar of commerce is produced in the new world, especially the tropical islands, and if the governments of those islands and mainlands would join the United States in a kind of zollverein, all pooling in to protect their sugar interests, they could soon break up the bounty system, for in that case the beet-raising countries of Europe would find the object of their bounty policy defeated. It is probable that they would be willing then to cry quits. Germany alone produces 1,350,000 metric tons, nearly one-fifth the total annual sugar product of the world. The United States has the soil and climate to compete, and under the McKinley act was beginning to be a formidable rival, but the Wilson law took off the bounty without making provision for any sort of off-set. The next congress should either restore the bounty or put a tariff on importation from bounty-paying countries high enough to be an off-set to those bounties.

The United States is the great sugar-eating country of the world. Our consumption of it has considerably more than doubled per capita since the war. The average annual amount of sugar consumed by each person in this country is nearer seventy than sixty pounds. If the money spent for sugar could all be kept at home it would make a great difference with our balance of trade. At 2 cents a pound this exceeds $100,000,000 a year. Surely the Wilson law, viewed simply from this one saccharine point of view, was a great national calamity.

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