

The Sioux County Journal.

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J. L. Simmons, Editor.

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It looks as if the populists would get about the same treatment in the division of spoils in the state that they did in the national affair.

If an editor didn't have two or three fellows all the time with the mullies about something he has said or something he has not said he would be liable to forget that he was running a paper.—York Times.

The state officers elect have decided on who shall have some of the plums with their gift. So far Jim Dahlin is the only one in this part of the state who has been taken care of. He, with J. W. Edgerton and G. L. Laws are to be secretaries of the state board of transportation. Dahlin had to bear lots of grief during the campaign and is entitled to a place at the state pie-counter.

A movement has been started for changing the divisions of the year into thirteen months, instead of twelve months as done at present. The plan is to have twelve months of twenty-eight days each and allot to the thirteenth month twenty-nine days, except in leap years, when it would have thirty days. The advantages of the plan are numerous. With that arrangement each month, except the last, would contain exactly four weeks, so that business arrangements would be simplified very much. The necessity of constantly referring to a calendar would be avoided and in numerous ways much annoyance would be done away with. It is true that it would be a little awkward at first, so it was when the present system of standard time was introduced, but none will now deny that it is far superior to the method, when each town had a different time, and the same would prove true of the plan suggested in regard to the months.

There has been some talk of trying to have a law passed providing that in the case of the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage no deficiency judgment shall be entered against the maker of the mortgage. Such a law would be no injustice to the investor, for it has come to be recognized as an unwritten law among sheriffs that the real estate shall cancel the debt, and the courts usually recognize that as a proper adjudication. One judge remarked to the writer recently that in such cases a sheriff could and should use his authority to bring about a balance in the accounts. That at the time of the execution of the mortgage the maker of the loan was satisfied with the security offered and if values shrunk so that the equity of the maker of the mortgage was entirely absorbed it is not justice or equity to have a deficiency judgment rendered against him. That if the mortgage gets the property he should be satisfied. In most of the western counties of the state a man stands practically no show for election to the office of sheriff unless he agrees to see that no deficiencies will be returned by him, and under such conditions there is little need of a law on the subject, and the only cases in which it would make any difference would be where a sheriff was narrow-minded and took that way to vent his personal spite against the mortgagor.

The highwayman attacks a victim unawares, robs him of his valuables and leaves him dying or badly wounded, perhaps far from succoring hand. The midnight assassin sneaks as a wolf upon the defenseless individual he has determined to destroy and drives the cruel steel to his heart from the back. The incendiary uses his torch under cover of darkness and when the one he wrongs is not near to defend his rights. So the malicious slanderer or base falsifier does his devilish work at a time when defense cannot be properly made and when results may prove most disastrous to the person maligning. These four criminal characters are of the same stripe, being equally dangerous to society and equally abhorred by just men. The slanderer and liar might well be put at the head of this list, for honor with most men is treasured more highly than money, or property, or, often, even life itself. "Who steals my purse steals trash," the immortal Shakespeare grandly declared, and continued truly, "but he that filches from me my good name takes that which enriches not himself and makes me poor indeed." Yet these "four of a kind" frequently prosper in a worldly way, for a season, though eventually justice is sure to be meted out to them. While they may be honored by their fellow citizens, their dark deeds unknown, and exalted to positions of public trust, but in God's good time the punitive gets the robber and burner, the rope gets the murderer and the devil got the last of these unlucky four.—Albion Blade.

The demand for a more equitable tax law and a better way to collect public revenue should receive the attention of the legislature.

It is evident that politicians of the Bryan-Allen-Jones-Altgeld class cannot again accomplish so near a fusion in national affairs as they did in the recent election. The democratic papers of the south are declaring that they will no more train with the populists, and the pops of the north declare that they will never go into a deal with the democrats because the latter did not "tote" fair in the campaign of 1896. Politics do make strange bed-fellows sometimes and it seldom affords peaceful rest to any of the occupants of the couch.

President Cleveland has delivered his last message to congress and it seems to be as much of a disappointment as any of its predecessors. It was expected that he would make some recommendation to congress which, at least define the position of this government in regard to Cuba, but he simply deprecates the continued war but attempts to offer no plan of action in the matter. It looks as if the matter would have to rest as it is until the change in the administration takes place in March. There has been considerable activity both in the war and navy departments, and there is no doubt that the nation is getting in shape to meet any emergency. In the meantime the Cubans are keeping up the fight in a manner which shows that they will yield only when annihilated and are making it exceedingly unpleasant for the Spanish forces. Weyler is desperate and is conducting a campaign of butcheries and humanity demands that he be made to desist.

The Companion Calendar.

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Sound Money in the Northwest.

So far as we have observed, the eastern press and the eastern public have not yet done full justice to the election returns of the great northwest. In view of the deep solicitude manifested during the campaign by people in the vicinity of New York regarding the situation in such states as Iowa and Minnesota, for example, it is somewhat amusing as well as instructive to note the fact that the aggregate sound-money majorities given by the city and state of New York and adjacent populations. Where New York gave a McKinley plurality of less than 275,000, a like population in the west, including Chicago and territory tributary to that city, gave a plurality of about 400,000 votes for the McKinley electors. The only western state that voted for Mr. Bryan by a crushing majority was the mining state of Colorado—a state in which for a number of years all parties, republican, democrat, and populist alike had been unqualifiedly in favor of free-silver coinage.—From "The Progress of the World," in December Review of Reviews.

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