

The Sioux County Journal.

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L. J. Simmons, - - Editor.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

THE JOURNAL wishes all its readers a happy and prosperous New Year.

The legislature will convene on next Tuesday. "What will the harvest be?"

The effort that is being made to get a suitable union depot at Omaha ought to be seconded by every one in the state who expects to attend the trans-Mississippi exposition. A union depot is a necessity in the metropolis of the state.

It is hoped that the move being made to reform the currency of the nation will result in some plan being evolved by which the question may be removed from politics. The commercial and business interests of the nation are too great to be dependent on the result of a national election every four years and the consequent unsettled condition of affairs during the long campaign preceding the election. It is better to have such questions settled by cool-headed business men than by hot-headed politicians.

The legislature will be asked to reimburse Boyd county in the sum of \$4,822.80 as expenses incurred in the prosecution of the men charged with the murder of Barrett Scott, of Holt county. There is no good reason why the legislature should fail to grant the request. It is a part of the duty of the state government to see that criminals do not go unpunished for want of funds with which to pay the costs of prosecution, and if the appropriation is not made it will be notice to criminals that they need not fear prosecution in counties where the treasury is empty.

Experiments have demonstrated that the pith of corn stalks makes the most serviceable padding known for battlements and its use for that purpose will create a market for a large amount of that part of the corn-grower's product. In the past cocoon fibre has been used for padding but the corn-stalk pith has been proven to be twice as serviceable, and can be had ready for use at a much less cost. The use of the corn-stalk pith for ship padding will very likely lead to its use for other purposes and thus a value be created for a substance which has gone to waste in the past.

Indications are that Cleveland will maintain the same position in regard to Cuba as he has held thus far. It is evident, however, that he is satisfied that McKinley will adopt quite a different policy for there is great activity in the war and navy departments. Arms and ammunition are ordered and those having contracts are working day and night to fill them. Nothing is given to the public as a reason for this activity, but it is safe to presume that the departments would not incur such expense at a time when the treasury is in its present condition unless it was deemed necessary. In Cuba the situation is the same as it has been with no likelihood of change. This government has given notice that men cannot organize to go to Cuba to help the insurgents, but there is nothing to prevent men going there as individuals and it is understood that many have done so and many more will follow. The Cubans will thus be enabled to hold their ground until the new president takes his seat.

A Chicago man a few days ago demonstrated to a number of witnesses that electrical science had made the opening of the finest safes an easy and quiet task. The first exhibition test was made on a spherical safe, which was the only kind heretofore considered to be absolutely able to withstand the efforts of the cracksmen. The steel wall was seven inches thick and the operator made a hole through it in less than fifteen minutes. A strong box, such as is usually used in the safes of banks and other financial institutions was then attacked. The wall of that was three and a half inches thick of the metal supposed to be the best to resist an effort to get at the contents, but it took but two minutes for the man to reach the interior of the strong box. There was no noise to arouse the people of the neighborhood. All the tools used were a stick of carbon, a converter's light iron box and a coil of wire, all of which the man carried in his pocket. To connect with an electric light wire, which is an easy task in places of any size, and if there are no light wires the robber can carry enough storage cells to do the work. It seems from that showing that the finest safes in the world afford little more protection to valuables than the time-honored stocking-leg. The only safe thing to do with money is to keep it in circulation.

Governor Holcomb has issued certificates of election to the two fusion nominees for contingent judges of the supreme court, claiming that the proposed amendment to the constitution relating thereto having received a greater number of votes than was cast against it the amendment was carried. When the opinion written by Judge Maxwell is considered, and the fact that at the time it was written it would have been in line with his desires to have held differently, it looks as if the chief executive was going too far. Judge Maxwell still holds to the opinion which he entertained at the time the question was raised when he was a member of the supreme court. Political changes have made it so that Judge Maxwell would like to see the fusionists seated, yet he stated to the writer a few days ago in conversation that he did not think that they were entitled to seats under the constitution.

Among the important matters which the legislature will be asked to consider will be the making of an appropriation for the Trans-Mississippi Exposition to be held at Omaha. The condition of the finances of the state and the business depression that has prevailed for some years will doubtless call out more opposition than would appear had fairly good times been experienced. The proposed exposition is simply a business enterprise on the part of the state. It is a fact that individuals will profit by it to an extent, but the greatest good is to accrue to the state at large. It will be an investment of the amount appropriated by the state in advertising. All good business men recognize that it pays to advertise and what is good for a private enterprise will apply equally as well to a public undertaking. It is true that during the past six or seven years Nebraska has had a good deal of advertising, but it has been of a kind which has tended to keep people and capital away, rather than to induce them to come within its borders. It is against the doctrines of the populist party to make appropriations for such purposes and the senator and representative from this district both belong to that party, but it is hoped that they will prove to be possessed of a range of vision broad enough to enable them to see the benefits to be derived by the state from the exposition and lend their influence to the making of an appropriation which will allow the enterprise to be carried out in a creditable manner.

Who Are the Capitalists?
Chicago Inter Ocean.
Four hundred and fifty millions of dollars is a large sum; it is about equal to the yearly income of the government of the United States. Yet it is the amount that is owned by persons of moderate means, most of them wage-earners, in one state of the Union. The deposits in savings banks (the purely commercial deposits in other banks being left out of the reckoning) amount to the vast sum that we have named. Every year the life insurance companies pay out \$84,000,000, much of it in sums ranging between \$1,000 and \$5,000, to the widows and orphans of deceased insureds. The yearly earnings, by way of interest, upon the deposits in savings banks in the state of New York aggregate \$16,000,000.

Who are the "money sharks?" It is not some man or some half dozen men of the vastly rich in the east that hold mortgages on western lands. It is the savings banks and insurance companies, which, in the last analysis, are combinations of workmen, clerks, small traders and professional men that are the eastern creditors of the western farmer.

The practice of thrift yearly grows more universal. The modern development of great industries that require vast aggregations of capital—aggregations that no two or three of the very rich can furnish—have led to the exploitation of the savings bank. In New York it is found that the average deposit—made in sums ranging from \$1 to \$100—is over \$400 for each person; only 63,000 out of 111,314 accounts kept with one bank being less than \$200, and only 700 being as much as \$5,000. In all, 900,000 persons in the state of New York are depositors in savings banks, and 1,390,000 are holders of life insurance policies. This is a splendid showing. It is proof conclusive that, despite the very hard times through which we have been passing, considerably more than half of the adult population of the most thickly populated state of the Union have made reasonable provision for themselves and their families in the event of sickness, pain or death.

The cordial endorsements which Hon. H. C. Russell is receiving from all over the state as a candidate for commissioner of pensions indicates the esteem in which he is held. The place could not be more worthily bestowed.

In his report State Treasurer Bartley shows that if the taxes of the state were paid the general fund would contain a surplus of more than \$900,000 instead of being about \$1,400,000 behind. There is a good chance for some smart member of the legislature to devise and introduce a way of making the well-to-do and rich pay their taxes. The poor people are the ones who bear the burdens now.

Something for Nothing.
In addition to giving two papers each week the Semi-Weekly State Journal now gives to each person sending \$1.00 a free premium. You can have your choice of the Toledo Blade, or New York Tribune. Or you can have any two of these papers free: Poultry News, Swine Breeder, Farm News and Womankind. Hundreds of other free premiums, such as a splendid Atlas, State Journal Almanac, United States History, etc. Send postal card request for premium list. You should read the Journal during the legislature, no matter what other papers you read at other times. You must send your money drawn to the State Journal, Lincoln, Nebraska, to get any of these free premiums.

Just From the Press.
A very attractive publication has just been issued by the passenger department of the Burlington Route. It bears the title "The Newer Northwest" and describes in a most interesting and readable fashion those portions of northern Wyoming and the Black Hills of South Dakota which are reached by this company's lines.

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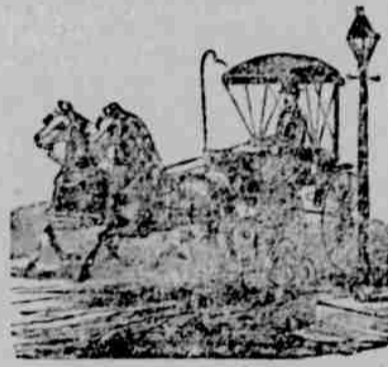
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