The Sioux County Journal.

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L. J. Simmons, - - Editor.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1897.

The legislature has done nothing of importance as yet, except to refuse to have the governor's message printed. If that been done by the legislature two years ago it would have been demanded by the friends of His Excellency as being a petty, personal, piavanish, partisan act on the part of republicans. But for the papocrats to slap their governor in the face is hard to account for.

The prospects of a settlement of the Cuban trouble seem to be a little lighter. The cause thereof is that the home government of Spain is quite likely to be overthrown and it will take all the power of the government to protect itself. Under such conditions the moment that the rights of the Cubans are recognized by the United States other nations will do the same and Cuba will be free.

The message of Governor Holcomb to the legislature was an exceedingly lengthy document, but it covered the conditions of the state quite fully, and the legislature will find it well worthy of consideration. Nothing is recommended which will endanger the credit of the state, although his remarks in regard to the bounty on sugar, while somewhat vague and ambiguous, indicate no desire on the part of the chief executive that the state make good its promises of two years ago. He also intimates that the abolition of the soldiers' home at Milford would please him. He upholds the depository law but recommends numerous amendments, and some changes in the ballot law are also suggested. If the legislature acts on all the points touched upon the members will find plenty to do.

Eugene V. Debs has come squarely out as a socialist. He has been one of the leaders of the labor organizations of the country, and as such has done more to cause trouble between empoyees and employers than he ever has to advance the welfare of the members of the organization of which he was the head. During the campaign he was an ardent supporter of Bryan and free silver. He now says that free silver as a panacea for existing evils was simply a rallying cry with which to catch suckers, thereby showing the insincerity of his position and pretenses during the campaign. Thus slowly but surely are the masks dropping from those who played leading parts in the free silver farce and the people who allowed themselves to be hoodwinked are coming to realize that they were induced lend their aid to men who were simply working a scheme for their personal advancement.

It seems that the northwest district is bound to send a man to one branch or the other of the legislature who will persist in a course which renders them incapable of accomplishing any good for the part of the state that they are supposed to represent. During the two sessions last past H. G. Stewart was in the senate and accomplished nothing for his district, while the member of the lower house at the last session quietly secured the enactment of a law that has already been of great value to this part of the state. With the retirement of Stewart it was hoped that the members from the northwest would, at least, conduct themselves in a manner which would entitle them to the respect of the body to which they belong. But the hope seems to have been delusive for the mantle of Stewart must have fallen on Representative Sheldon and he started out on a line of petty, personal, partisan peridness which will dissapate whatever elements of usefulness he may have possessed at the beginning of the session.

The fact that W. J. Bryan has made a failure on the lecture platform is now apparent to all and admitted by those who are in position to know. He was to deliver fifty non-partisan lectures for which he was to receive fifty thousand dollars. The prospect for good financial results seemed excellent. But Mr. Bryan had a new and untried field before him. In his speeches in congress, in his work as a free silver agtator and in his wonderful speech-making tour during the campaign his audiences were such that catch-phrases, paraphrases and appeals to prejudice and partisan feelings were applause-winners. To talk to an audience composed of the classes of people who go and pay their money to hear high-priced lecturers and who sit in cool, dispassionate judgment on what he utters was quite another thing. It has never been remarked that Bryan's speeches did not read well, and that the attraction was in his personal magnetism and rhetoric, but when shorn of the opportunity to play upon the passions and prejudices of his hearers he stands like Samson of old after having been shorn of his locks and his strength, and is mocked by his weakness because of his former exhibitions of strength. It is the opening of the "Boy Orator of the Platte."

THE OCEAN DRYING UP.

Conclusions Reached by Newton and Indorsed by Later Scientists.

Newton, the great Sir Isaac, surmised, although he could give no reason for the conclusions he had reached, that in the course of time the earth would become perfectly dry. Others, most notably De Verne, Hamilton (Prof. A. L.) and the younger Lysander, believed that eventually the earth would become as dry as the proverbial ship. Even in this day and age the theory has many adherents. At a recent meeting of the French Geological society M. Transchold, of Moscow, Russia, read a paper entitled "Nonlinvariability of the level of the ocean." It terminated with the following curious and interesting conclusions:

1. In proportion as certain parts of the earth's crust rise from the bottom of the sea above its level the latter must be lowered.

2. The surfaces of nearly all the continents and islands have at one time formed portions of the ocean's floor. They have risen from the water partly because of the retreat of the waters.

3. As continents are formed, one part of the waters of the seas is transported to them in the form of lakes, rivers, eternal snows, glaciers and organized substances. Owing to these actions the waters of the oceans have been constantly diminishing and their levels lowered correspondingly.

4. In proportion as the earth cools down ice accumulates near the poles and on the tops of mountains, water is taken more deeply into the surface of the terrestial crust, the formation of hydrated minerals being manifested everywhere.

The result of these conclusions is that since all the water that ever existed may still exist in the form of perpetual ice, snow, hydrated minerals, etc., the waters of all oceans have been gradually disappearing, and that the lowering of the oceans is going on even at the present day, and faster perhaps than ever before.

LONDON'S BIG BEN.

The Largest Striking Clock in the Whole World.

Between the palace yard at Westminster and the top of the clock tower which marks the hours for parliament there are four hundred and twenty steps.

The clock from which Big Ben strikes the hour is, according to the Pall Mall Budget, the largest in the world. Looking at the dial from the northern footway of Great George street, or from the Embankment, it looks as if its diameter might be equal to the space that a man of medium size could cover with outstretched arms. This estimate hardly does the dial justice, for its diameter is twenty-three feet. From the ground the minutes on the dial look like ordinary minutes, and as if they were close together. As a matter of fact, they are a foot apart. The numerals are two feet long. The minute hand, with the counterbalance—the heavy end that projects beyond the center of the dial—is fifteen feet in length. This hand is so massive that during a snowstorm sometimes the clock is retarded, by the weight of the flakes that alight upon it.

Twenty men could stand under Big Ben in a rainstorm and escape a wetting if the rain fell in an exact perpendicular and stayed where it fell.

The new light at the top of the parliament tower is forty-three steps higher than Big Ben. The old light was twenty-four steps higher still. The new light is of two thousand candle-power. When the light is being fixed two men stand in the lantern, and they have plenty of room. This parliament light is now a conspicuous object in London.

ONE WAY TO TAME RATS.

Half Drown Them and Then Nurse Them Back to Life.

Five large gray rats are the peculiar pets of a man in this city, says the Philadelphia Press. The rodents evince great affection for him, following him about the house like dogs, run up his sleeve and come out at the breast, nestle around the rim of his hat and perform a variety of tricks such as leaping through a wire hoop and drawing a coach, four of them acting as horses and one as driver.

Asked how he had tamed the rats the man answered:

"It is very easy when you know how."

"Well, what is the how?"

"Simply. I trap a rat in a cage and then examine him carefully to see if he is young and not too vicious. Having selected a proper specimen I take him to the yard and drop him in a barrel half filled with water. If he tries to clamber up the sides I throw him back and keep him in the water until he is completely exhausted. When he is just about to go under I take him out, pour a little brandy down his throat with a syringe and take him to the stove, where I wrap him in a piece of blanket, coddle him and nurse him back to life. So grateful is he that he remains my slave forever after, fawns on me and becomes quite a pet."

Under the Pacific.

If the Pacific could be laid bare, we should have a most singular spectacle. There would be a number of mountains with truncated tops scattered over it, and those mountains would have an appearance just the reverse of that presented by the mountains we see on shore. You know that the mountains on the shore are covered with vegetation at their bases, while their tops are barren or covered with snow; but these mountains would be perfectly bare at their bases, and all round their tops they would be covered with beautiful vegetation of coral polypes.

Profit-sharing.

The following list shows the number of profit-sharing establishments in the different countries: France, ninety-two; Austria, three; Sweden, four; Italy, four; Switzerland, sixteen; Germany, twenty-six; Belgium, five; United States, thirty-five; Portugal, one; Spain, one; England, sixty-four; Denmark, four; Holland, five; Russia, one, which makes a total of two hundred and fifty-five in all.

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