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### Washington Letter.

BY TAVENNER.

Washington, April 18.—"I am now fast getting to be an old man. I have seen the great corporations and the trusts and combinations grow in this country at a rapid and well-nigh irresistible pace, and they will grow faster until we shall be absolutely helpless unless we adhere faithfully to the provisions of the anti-trust law. The pending railroad regulation bill will give the railroad companies immunity from the anti-trust law and will confer on them unlimited power to effect mergers. I for one can never consent to such legislation." In what was probably the most remarkable speech in his career; United States Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota thus spoke of the Taft-Wickersham railroad regulation bill. That such an attack would be made by a Republican senator upon a bill which the President has declared to represent true Republican policy and doctrine, and support of which Attorney General Wickersham and all the reactionaries have declared is a test of true Republicanism, indicates how far apart the stalwarts and progressives really are.

"Mr. President, I am very much obliged to senators for listening to me without interrupting me. My opinion of this bill as it came here from the committee in the first instance is that in essence its chief aim was to protect the railroads against the anti-trust law. I can come to no other conclusion, and being a plain, blunt man, I can not help expressing this opinion in this chamber and before this body."

Blind to the past, the standpat faction of the Republican party—which is by far the biggest half of it—has decided to "stand pat" on these propositions:

That Aldrichism is a good thing for the country.

That Cannonism is a good thing for the country.

That the Payne-Aldrich tariff law is a God-send to the common people of the United States.

That any Republican member of Congress who votes against legislation recommended by the President thereby reads himself out of the party.

Right or wrong; win, lose or draw, the Republican regulars have resolved on a desperate attempt to bluff the American people on these propositions. There is but one thing that will make a better impression on a campaign audience than a bluff, and that is a stupendous bluff. The Cannonites and the Aldrichites, master politicians that they are, will play this trump card. Political gamblers they see a chance that the people may not have the courage to call their hand.

### Our Lincoln Letter

Lincoln, Nebr., April 20—(Special Correspondence.)—On May 2 the democrats of Emerson will hold a rally and enjoy a banquet, and on May 3, the democrats of Tecumseh will follow suit. Governor Shallenberger will be the principal speaker at both places.

On April 14 the governor officially proclaimed Arbor day, April 22. J. Sterling Morton's birthday comes a little late for tree planting, even under normal conditions, but this year it is unusually late, owing to the forward spring.

The election in Lincoln on April 11 was even more exciting than a presidential election, and the total vote was larger by almost 2,000 than ever before cast in the city, reaching above 9,600. Only one question was up for consideration, "saloons or no saloons," and the "dry" element won by a majority of 936.

Beatrice "went wet" at the recent election, but now comes the mayor-elect with the announcement that he is going to rigidly enforce the anti-treating law. If he succeeds in doing this he will make the saloon business very unprofitable in Beatrice.

Writing of Sheridan's sweep down the Shenandoah valley during the "late unpleasantness," one historian remarked that "a crow flying over the valley in the rear of Sheridan's troopers would have to carry its provisions with it." The same thing is true in a different way of the territory between Superior and McCook, a distance of 137 miles. In all that stretch of territory along the Republican valley there is only one drinking spot, Bloomington.

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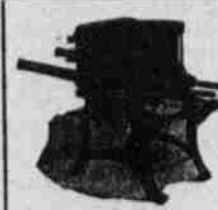
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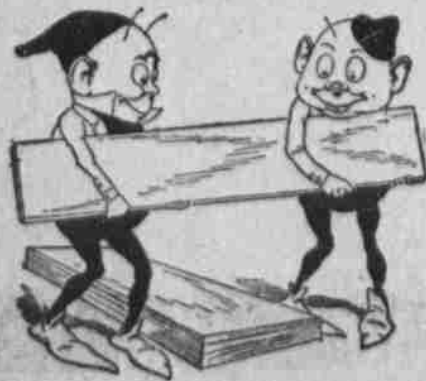
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