

IN AWFUL CONDITION

Shameful State of Affairs Prevalent at State Institution.

FEEBLE MINDED YOUTH NEGLECTED

Sickness and Death Among the Inmates of Home for Feeble Minded Youth at Beatrice—Situation in General is Deporable.

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 29, 1900.

Incompetency is getting in its deadly work at several of the state institutions. It is indeed a crying shame that the poor, unfortunate people of the state who are helpless to protect themselves from results of ignorance and abuses should be thus treated.

The following correspondence between Mrs. S. A. Brown of Homer, wife of the chairman of the democratic county central committee of Dakota county, and Dr. B. F. Lang, expert superintendent of the Home for the Feeble Minded Youth at Beatrice, throws a strong light on the sad conditions prevalent at that institution:

Homer, Neb., Oct. 15, 1900.

"Dear Sir: Yours of the 10th addressed to Mr. Brown is at hand. He will consider its contents and weigh it in the new light that has developed in our case, and let you know as requested."

"You no doubt know that we visited the Institute Oct. 8th and the result of that visit is not yet known, only to us. What we found there, God alone knows. Dr. Lang, I want you to ascertain the true condition of Charlie when you left him and his condition during the two previous months. For how long a time has he been in falling health? Do you know if he had the spells daily or monthly? Some of his attendants should know about this. We were never told one word about him being in a falling condition, but expected to find him in his general good health, considering his disease, and we found a total wreck, and I am very much in doubt as to whether it is the result of only two or three weeks of neglect and abuse. When we got there that morning we had to wait one hour before he was brought to us and when he was dragged in by two men his father could not believe it to be our Charlie. He was wasted and unable to sit up, blue and cold, fresh from a cold bath in a cold room. Fifteen minutes after I got him into a bed he was in a raging fever. Dr. Lang, I believe you to understand enough of humanity to realize our feelings at such a discovery. Charlie had developed lung fever and his body is covered with bruises and cuts and on his back is a deep festered sore. Is it possible, I ask myself, that this is all the sinful, wicked neglect of the new administration? We have had the best skill in the profession to examine him and all agree that his physical condition is the result of neglect. He has the next thing to pneumonia. He is helpless and has one hard spell after another. In the building that cold morning there was no sign of fire or heat."

"Well, Charlie has come home to die and if it takes the remainder of our lives we expect to hunt this thing down and find redress, not in political barterings, but it shall be paid even as he has paid the price for this sinful neglect—in the flesh. Dr. Lang, I request this of you: Write us all you know of his condition as I asked you. Two days before we reached there a letter came here that our child was in his general health and good condition. Dr. B. had not even known that he had been down sick. The whole town and surrounding country here are shocked and indignant over this shameful discovery. Dr. Maxwell of Dakota City and Dr. Way of Wahoo were the first to examine him. We did not expect to get him home alive."

"Dr. Lang, I pray you, give this your attention. It is too late for Charlie's sake, but it may be the means of saving some other helpless soul. In faith, I am yours. (Signed) 'MRS. S. A. BROWN.'"

The foregoing brought forth the following reply from Dr. Lang, who, by the way, has long been considered one of the strongest men in the fusion party:

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 18, 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown: Dear Friends—I received the very sad statement about your little son whom you were obliged to take away from the Nebraska Institution for Feeble Minded Youth at Beatrice, Nebraska. I am not surprised at your statement, and I am sure that the taxpayers and voters of Nebraska will not be surprised either. Only a few days of neglect of the poor, unfortunate children at the Institution will cause, not only what you describe, but death. You will be astonished that two have died at the Institution within a week, as reported by attendants. Miss Wagoner, an attendant, who died last Tuesday, wanted to quit the morning I left the Institution, but I advised her to remain to care for the inmates if possible. If a strong, vigorous person like

she can be the victim of bad sanitary conditions and neglect, need you be surprised that your weak and afflicted little son would be found in the condition described in your letter. Not only these, but I am informed that others are now confined to their beds with low forms of fevers. You ask me if his condition could have been the result of three or four weeks' neglect? It could have been even worse with the neglect of only one week. Your sons visited the Institution while under my charge, and you know how well pleased they were with your little son's condition, and you, about June, visited and was granted every privilege and invited to investigate every department. You had Charlie with you for two days, not in basement rooms, but were treated as every father and mother should be, in the guest rooms of that Institution. You know his condition when you visited him in his ward at night and your testimony is worth everything to the voters of this state.

I am very sorry, my dear friends, that you found your afflicted little boy in such a condition and if I could be of any help you know that I would gladly assist you. The voters of the state of Nebraska have the only remedy to correct these evils in our state institutions, by electing legislators and a governor who will not be led by hungry political pie hunters. Any further information I shall be glad to give. Yours very truly,

BENJ. F. LANG, M. D. (Benj. F. Lang, M. D.) A MANLY DENIAL. Hastings, Neb., Oct. 22, 1900.

To the Public: A circular letter has been issued and circulated throughout the state of Nebraska by the Anti-Saloon League of this state, which states that the republican nominee for governor pulled off a prize fight in the city of Hastings, during the month of September, 1899, during the street fair carnival. The facts are as follows:

The Street Fair Association, by William Dutton, its president, Fred Renner, secretary, William Brach, treasurer, and the committee on miscellaneous sports, of which Mr. Dietrich was only a member, decided to have a sparring and wrestling contest. A contract was entered into for a sparring contest with six ounce gloves and for points only. The ministers of the city, having been misinformed, understood that there was to be a prize fight. A committee of ministers called upon the officers of the association and with the mayor of the city investigated, and the contract was shown them and they, themselves, approved of it, provided the contract was lived up to. It was a matter entirely in the hands of the association and nothing that could be charged up to Mr. Dietrich personally.

J. D. MINES, Sec. Miscellaneous Sports. WILL M. DUTTON, Pres. WILLIAM BRACH, Treas. FRED RENNER, Jr., Secy.

I have read the above statement and vouch for the correctness of the statement and positively assert that there was no prize fight held, but a sparring contest was held under the terms of the contract.

JACOB FISHER, Mayor City of Hastings. William Dutton, who is one of the persons whose names appear above in exonerating and clearing Mr. Dietrich of all personal responsibility, is one of the most substantial business men of Hastings and heavily interested in Omaha, being a member of the firm of J. H. Hainey & Co. Mr. Dutton is also a member of Governor Poynter's staff.

William Brach, another of the signers, is a democrat and is a member of the firm of Waibach & Brach, one of the largest business houses in the city of Hastings.

J. D. Mines is now and for years has been treasurer of the city of Hastings and is a highly esteemed citizen.

The fusionists have scattered lies and falsehoods broadcast about Charles H. Dietrich. They are conducting a campaign of villainous deception. Every time one of these false reports is investigated it is invariably found to be untrue. It would be a gross injustice should Governor Poynter be elected by voters who have been influenced by false reports concerning Mr. Dietrich. Poynter's public record is that bad that falsehood could not make it worse. His management of the state institutions has been shameful in the highest conceivable degree. It would be a public misfortune to re-elect him and continue the reign of politicians over affairs of the state two more years.

SURRENDERED TO TAMMANY.

Bryan is the first democratic candidate for the presidency, from Tilden to Cleveland, that ever surrendered to Tammany. All the other candidates on the democratic ticket have manfully refused to recognize Tammany. Tammany has always claimed as the price for its support the right to control and distribute all the federal appointments in the state of New York. No man of high moral standing would consent to such an illicit compact and the result is that for years Tammany has failed to take concentrated interest in the national elections and has confined its efforts to preying upon the metropolis. It was Grover Cleveland's stubborn fight against that iniquitous organization that led that sturdy old democrat, General Edward Bragg of Wisconsin, speaking in the democratic national convention, to remark: "We love Cleveland for the enemies he has made." It is a matter of history that honest democrats everywhere have kept aloof from Tammany Hall. David B. Hill, one of the leading democrats of the nation, only a few weeks ago in a public speech denounced Tammany as "a monster of vice, ignorance and persecution." Hill at that time was making a speech in support of Bryan, but that did not stop him from placing the brand of vicious iniquity on Tammany. But along comes Mr. Bryan, the man from Nebraska, the "reformer" of reformers, and startles the honest men of all parties

by racing through the streets of New York with Boss Croker as a companion and following it up by proclamations in his speech in Madison Square Garden that same evening: "Great is Tammany, and Croker is its prophet." Other democrats less loud in their professions of decency than Mr. Bryan have refused to have anything to do with Tammany, and Mr. Bryan's action in this respect will not only cause many of his adherents to view the aspect with disappointment, but will strengthen belief in the accuracy and truthfulness of other reports concerning him which many have been slow to believe because of his supposed integrity. The simple fact of the matter is that the bargain between Bryan and Tammany has been struck and everybody with any knowledge of politics knows the consideration. In this as in all other respects Bryan and his advisers brush aside the logic of experience and history. It is a matter of history that Tammany's most destructive influence in national politics is its support. The mere fact that Tammany supported a candidate in times past has been enough to turn chastened sentiment against him. The record of the organization is so pregnant with iniquity that its opposition is the strongest certificate of character any candidate or any party could have. Dick Croker, its chief, came to the position a poor man, yet in a few years, with no other way of accumulating a fortune than by fraud and the spoils of office in New York City, he is already several times a millionaire. Tammany has been for years reigned in the public prints and denounced from the public rostrum as a monster of vice and corruption and nobody has dared to deny these drastic imputations. The thievery and corruption of this organization was so openly manifest that denial was useless. For years it has had its tentacles fastened upon the government of New York, with the result that it takes \$30,000,000 per year to maintain municipal government in that city, or nearly one-fifth of what it costs to run the entire government of the nation. It will be observed, therefore, that Tammany is not in politics for its health. This is the organization that has made its truce with Mr. Bryan. Tammany's support has always been an element of weakness, and with a record shaking under the weight of its own rottenness it must continue to be. By this alliance Mr. Bryan may and will secure the slum element of that great city, but he will lose the support of decent democrats, which will send the republican majority in the state high up in the thousands. It is quite apparent that Bryan has been tricked by Boss Croker. Croker knows as well as anybody that public support by Tammany in national campaigns will defeat any ticket. But Croker is looking out for 1904. He is bent on defeating David B. Hill at that time, and he must in order to succeed have control of the municipal machinery of New York City. Cunning politician that he is, he has laid his plans well. Disastrous as the alliance with Bryan will be to Bryan it is the only hope Croker has of retaining Tammany's grip on New York City. Should Bryan be elected Croker would of course be the power behind the throne in state if not in national affairs, but his eye is set on conditions four years hence. But how will Mr. Bryan's "reform" friends in Nebraska view this latest performance? Will they calmly yield to the party lash, or will they resist the affront? In other words, will they uphold a candidate who "reforms" by going over to the enemy bag and baggage? The popocrats profess to favor honest and economical government. How can they reconcile this profession to the alliance between Bryan and the most subtle, corrupt and iniquitous political organization this country has ever known?

NOT AUTHORIZED. It develops, however, that Darnall's use of the Anti-Saloon league to promote the candidacy of Governor Poynter is absolutely without authority. Frank Carpenter of Omaha, vice president of the league and a member of the Carpenter Paper company, one of the largest establishments of this kind in the west, when asked if the league had authorized Darnall to take action against Mr. Dietrich, said: "Positively no. I regard Mr. Dietrich as being a thorough and substantial business man and good citizen. I feel confident that no better, safer or experienced man can be found. I know Mr. Dietrich well enough to know that the temperance cause is perfectly safe in his hands, and safer than it would be in the hands of some who just at this time profess to be so keenly concerned about it. I regard Mr. Dietrich as being one of the very best citizens and a man neither politician nor schemer can control. He will do what he thinks is right regardless of consequences."

SOLD OUT TEMPERANCE. In an interview with Dr. Lang upon the position taken by Governor Poynter and his friends towards the temperance people of this state, he said: "I was chairman of the York county populist delegation of the state convention which nominated W. A. Poynter in 1898, and it is amusing to note the position that the friends of W. A. Poynter have taken and the arguments they are using that the temperance people of the state should not vote for Mr. Dietrich as against Mr. Poynter. I was an ardent supporter of Mr. Poynter's candidacy in 1898, as I believed there was a demand at that time that a man of temperance reputation be nominated. I remember well the long and tiresome siege that the populists had at that time in Lincoln persuading the democrats that Mr. Poynter was a fit person to become governor of the great state of Nebraska. Many of the populists who formerly were republicans, and some of us who had affiliated with the pro-

hibition people of the state, were inclined to stay by Poynter at all hazards, as we were informed that he was a temperance man. We could not understand why the democrats should have been so persistent in their opposition, after agreeing that we should designate the man for governor, but Poynter, being an unknown factor to many of the populists, they were inclined to weaken and give way to the demands of the democrats. The democrats insisted that they would not support a man whom they had any suspicion was tainted with prohibition personality. The fight was long and hard and lasted until the wee hours of morning. When the convention adjourned a committee was appointed to see if they could not agree upon some other candidate or some future action. I remember that the celebrated Edgar Howard, who is now running for congress in the Second congressional district, held the honorable position of chairman of the democratic party at that time. At the Lindell hotel he stated, when asked why the democrats were holding out against Poynter, 'that of all the hard things in this world for a democrat to do was to take water from a populist convention.' This statement gave away the whole thing and the populists renewed their courage and were determined, after being refreshed, that they would go back and fight it out. When the populist convention had convened a stampede was made to throw Poynter over the transom. This was planned and encouraged by the democratic allies and a few delegations of the populists who had opposed Poynter's nomination. Seeing that nothing could be done the democrats demanded that Mr. Poynter should appear at their convention and make clear his position toward the temperance people of the state and whether he were tied up with them. He appeared before them, and, much to the chagrin and humiliation of his populist friends, who had stood by him from the first, he said: 'I am from Kentucky and you understand my position, and immediately a motion was made that they endorse his nomination, and it was carried with a whoop. To say that the populists were embarrassed by the position he had taken mildly expresses it, as there was no such issue before the people. Had this been the last of the matter the populists and temperance people of the state could have forgotten the entire deal. The least that could be said about it at that time was that he was a very weak man or he never would have yielded to the demand made upon him. Nothing else could be done at the time and the different elements composing the fusion forces rallied and congratulated themselves, believing that he would straighten up and show his mettle later in the campaign. Among the different elements that composed the fusion party were the prohibition people who desired to express themselves and to have recognition. They were allowed to ratify and to congratulate Mr. Poynter upon his nomination. He assured them that they had his sympathy, but his future actions disappointed them. When they asked the privilege of placing his name and that of Lieutenant Governor Gilbert at the head of their ticket, having been led to believe that they sympathized with them, upon the temperance issues of the day, they were refused this courtesy. The prohibitionists have not to this day forgotten the cool reception Poynter gave them, and although he and his supporters are out slandering Mr. Dietrich, the candidate of the republican party for governor, and holding up their hands in horror, warning the people against any support that he may receive, it will not have much weight with those who remember the deceit and double-handed deal that he made at his nomination in 1898. The argument at that time that he knew that if he allowed his name to go upon the prohibition ticket would lose him many votes, clearly shows the character of the man. The fact alone would not have much significance had the matter dropped there, but his association and the recognition that he has given to the worst element in the political arena of any party in this state will not only condemn him with the prohibition people, but with all respectable people.

"The malicious and uncalled for attacks made upon Mr. Dietrich and falsehoods that are continuously circulated have already reacted, as it is simply another deal to mislead honorable people and to cover up the actions of Poynter and the fearful weakness that has shown in recognizing an element which cannot be tolerated by respectable people. His appointees of the Fire and Police commission of Omaha stand out as a warning to every respectable man that he cannot be trusted in any manner in the future. One of the hardest fights ever made in this state, that common decency and respectability should have a standing in our state institutions, was at Beatrice, when investigation showed that the whisky bottle was the sole cause of the disorganizing elements. When Governor Poynter was obliged to face the proposition he chose rather to stand by the bottle, stating that it was purely democratic and should have recognition. What was equally as bad was his appointment of Walter Moise, a notorious liquor dealer at that time and now, as colonel on his staff. I am not surprised, at the present time, that the only recommendation that he is seeking is to slander and blacken the character of his opponents. Governor Poynter's reputation and standing toward the temperance people is considered in the same light as his reputation for truth and veracity is by those who have had dealings with him during his executive career. There is not a county in the state but can be found many men of his own party and former supporters who are

absolutely obliged to admit that his word is absolutely worthless."

LINCOLN, Oct. 26.—Up to date but one candidate for the United States senate has petitioned the secretary of state to place his name on the official ballot. Under the law the voters may at the polls express preference for United States senators. The names of candidates are printed on the ballots without a party designation. Nearly 10,000 voters signed petitions asking the secretary of state to put Edward Rosewater's name on the official ballots, which was done according to law. In this connection Mr. Rosewater has made the following appeal to voters:

For more than a quarter of a century I have advocated the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. All efforts to secure this right for the people by amendment of the constitution of the United States, however, have failed up to this time. The nearest approach to popular selection of United States senators has been made in this state, where the people have a right under the state constitution to instruct their representatives in the legislature by an expression of preference at the ballot box. In proof of my sincerity as an advocate of the direct popular election of senators I have appealed for an expression of public sentiment under the constitutional provision by having my name placed on the official ballot at the coming election. While standing upon the declarations of the republican party in its national platform, I am committed also to certain reforms which in my judgment are demanded in the interest of the American people.

I am in favor of the establishment of postal savings banks in which the earnings of the people will be safely guarded through panic and depression. I am in favor of the postal telegraph and the widest extension of postal facilities to the people. I believe that corporations are creatures of the state that should be regulated and controlled by the state. While I favor public supervision of corporations, I am by no means in favor of confiscating their property, either by prescribing ruinous rates or excessive taxation. In other words, I favor such legislation as will protect the people against extortion and discrimination by corporate monopolies, but at the same time am opposed to any legislation that would prevent them from earning fair interest on honest investment.

My career in Nebraska, which covers a period of thirty-seven years, is a sufficient guaranty that if elected to the United States senate I will labor with all my ability and energy to promote the welfare and material prosperity of the state and nation and will always hold myself accessible to every citizen of Nebraska who has a claim upon my services or time, no matter how humble or poor. E. ROSEWATER.

The Rebuilt Theatre Francaise. All playgoers and Americans who knew the old will be glad to hear that few changes have been made in its reconstruction. The plan designed by the Architect Louis toward 1870 was too admirable to have been tampered with, and practically no modifications have been undergone. The interior aspect and arrangement of the theater, have also been preserved as far as possible. The oval-shaped vestibule on the ground floor remains unchanged. The grand staircase will be restored exactly as it was, and the public foyer, where about everybody of distinction has been seen between the acts, has received no desecrating transformation. Its architectural design has been regarded as a sacred trust, and to replace the interior as it originally was has been carried out to a dot.

Our Mary's Half Sister to Wed. The betrothal of Miss Blanche Griffin to Mr. Herman J. Herkomer, the artist, is made known by a letter from London. Miss Blanche Griffin is the half-sister of Miss Mary Anderson (Mrs. A. De Navarro), the well remembered actress, and daughter of the late Dr. Hamilton Griffin.

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