

THE FRONTIER.

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IMPORTANT EVENTS.

Prohibition national convention, Pittsburg, May 26.
Republican national convention, St. Louis, June 16.
Democratic national convention, Chicago, July 7.
Populist national convention, St. Louis, July 22.
Republican state convention, Lincoln, July 1.
Congressional convention, North Platte, July 3.

The Surprise is the name of a new republican paper established at Creighton by Wood & Shaffer. It supports Brooks and Meiklejohn.

The Frontier's "satire" may be a little wattery, as the Stuart Ledger suggests, but it undoubtedly is as pure as the barrel of "diluted" republicanism Bro. Wertz had on tap during the last campaign.

It is said that about fifteen of the friends of Gen. Harrison on the Indiana delegation to the St. Louis convention declare that if there is not a let-up in the push being made for a solid McKinley delegation they will take pains to show that the General is the first choice of Indiana for president after all.

The populist papers now all agree that ex-Governor Crouse is a grand old man, basing their belief upon the resolution introduced by him at the late republican convention, while a good many republicans say he is no good, and others say nothing and look wise. If a man wants populist sympathy all he has to do is to get in bad repute with a republican convention.

The Frontier is pleased that the state free silver convention honored our esteemed but politically misguided friend, Dr. Blackburn, of Atkinson, by selecting him as a delegate from this district to the democratic national convention. If our free silver brethren must be represented at Chicago it is a pleasure to have such such polished and able gentlemen as Mr. Blackburn selected to do it.

The constitutional amendment to be voted on at the coming election, providing for an increase in the number of supreme judges, is receiving considerable attention by the state press. The Frontier cannot see why this amendment should not carry. The court is about three years behind with the work, with no prospect of ever catching up. Three judges were enough to handle the work in 1875, when there were only sixty-four cases filed, but in 1895 with 781 cases it was entirely different.

We do not exactly understand how Gene Moore expects to be nominated for governor. Of course some of the offices are conceded to the north part of the state, but surely Moore, Brooks, McNish, Eekles and Barnes cannot hope to all win. It seems to us that any of the gentlemen named has a better fighting show than Moore, because they have not such formidable opposition in the south. If McNish is nominated, and that seems to be the determination, it will give the other boys a black eye.

From surface indications The Frontier would say that Holt county will probably support McNish for treasurer in the coming state convention. Mr. McNish used to be prosecuting attorney in this district in an early day and acting in that capacity made many warm personal friends who consider it a pleasure to speak a good word for him. As between Brooks and McNish we consider there is no comparison at all. Of course Brooks is a jolly good fellow, but the republican party has elected too many such men to office.

It is clear to us that Occidental Bates wrote the resolutions adopted at the free silver convention held in Atkinson a short time ago. The closing resolution convinces us of the fact. It is as follows:

Resolved, That we favor the coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and demand that this cardinal feature of the American financial system be made

the shibboleth of the party during the impending campaign.

The word "shibboleth" sticks out in Mr. Bates' writing like the "snapping of twigs" in the works of Cooper. We are led to wonder if the author designed that the word should be put to the same use that it was when the Gileadites fell upon and killed several train loads of the Ephraimites simply because they could not pronounce it correctly. Webster says the word means, usually, "some peculiarity in things of little importance." The author knew the meaning of the word, and no doubt used it in the fine classical sense to say that free coinage is a hembug.

POINTED AND PERTINENT.

If one democratic ticket has no earthly show to win what system of mathematics can be used to figure out the chances of two democratic tickets?

The prohibitionists say they will poll 1,000,000 votes at the presidential election. Well, suppose they do; it will simply be throwing away that many.

A Canadian claims to have invented a noiseless and smokeless gun that discharges 260,000 shots a minute, and we are expected to swallow the claim, notwithstanding our ability to produce good liars ourselves upon occasion.

Those who have twice broken into Senator Quay's committee room in the U. S. capitol building, in search of political information, had their trouble for their pains. Probably no man in the country has a more interesting collection of political information than Senator Quay has, and certainly no man in the country knows better how to take care of it.

When a democratic daily paper has 136 inches of advertisements from "males" who are seeking employment, and only 23 inches of advertisements from employers who want help, as was the case in New York on April 14, it is very easy to understand the effect of democratic tariff legislation upon the American labor market. There are practically six men after every job in the Empire city upon that basis, but there are hundreds of others out of work who have not the money necessary to pay for an advertisement. A ratio of 16 to 1 would be a moderate estimate.

KINKAID AND CONGRESS.

The republicans are putting up some strong talk for M. P. Kinkaid, of O'Neill, for congress.—Ewing (pop) Advocate.

If reports are to be relied upon, a great many of the delegates at the Broken Bow convention were watching the chances of Judge M. P. Kinkaid for the congressional convention pretty closely, and putting in a lick now and then in his favor. Entirely proper, gentlemen, entirely proper. He's a winner.—Alliance Times.

The article from the Sidney Poinard, which appears in another column, indicates that the republicans of Cheyenne county have level heads, and the attitude taken by Judge Heist shows that his desire for republican success is by far greater than his desire for personal advancement, and that he recognizes the fact that the congressional nominee will need all the strength he can rally if he is to be successful at the polls. Judge Heist has a strong following in the part of the district where he resides and he could go into convention with considerable strength, but he evidently recognizes that his doing so might result in the nomination of some man who could not be elected, but by throwing his strength to Kinkaid he knows that he is taking no such chances, for his nomination means his election. Judge Heist is to be congratulated upon his political sagacity, and others whose names have been mentioned in connection with the congressional nomination might add strength to the party in the district and not injure their own standing, should they follow his example.—Sioux County Journal.

PRESS COMMENTS.

General Manderson will deliver the Memorial Day address at the

tomb of General Grant. Some Nebraska newspapers were saying a short time ago that Manderson wasn't known outside of his own state.—Fullerton News.

It is said that L. P. Glassburn, of Wheeler county, is a republican candidate for senator from the Thirteenth district. Mr. Glassburn is one of the solid farmers of that county, and would, if elected, be a credit to Boyd, Holt, Garfield and Wheeler.—Atkinson Graphic.

J. A. Rice, of Stuart, and John Trommershauser, of Ewing, are both mentioned as candidates for the legislature on the republican ticket. They are good men and with them in the house Holt would rank high among the influential counties of the state.—Atkinson Graphic.

The Journal is in receipt of a petition from O'Neill signed by its old friends, "Constant Reader," "Old Subscriber," "Vox Populi," "Veritas," "Pro Bono Publico" and "Many Others," demanding an explanation of Mr. Bryan's new plank in the democratic platform, which, after "viewing with alarm" and "pointing with pride," demands the adoption of the "initiative and referendum" as a probable alternative to blood.

The Journal has waited a sufficient time to allow Mr. Bryan to explain it himself, but as evidently he has no such intentions, it will do the best it can for its O'Neill friends.

Switzerland is a federal republic of six hundred years' standing, but its constitution has been revised frequently. As it now stands, the republic, which has a population something less than 3,000,000, or a little larger than that of Massachusetts, and an area of 16,000 square miles, a little less than twice that of Massachusetts and just a little more than one-fifth that of Nebraska.

It is divided into twenty-five "cantons," or federated states. Taking out that of Berne, which has over a half million people, the average population of these cantons is less than a hundred thousand. Some of these cantons, which are constantly changing their constitutions, a few years ago adopted what is called the "initiative and referendum," in connection with their local legislation. These cantons, it will be seen, are about equal in importance to such counties in Nebraska as Douglas, Lancaster and Gage. The smallest canton, Lower Unterwalden, having about 11,000 people, the largest, next to Berne, Zurich, running as high as 284,000.

By the terms of the constitutions alluded to, the people of one of these little states, or counties as they would be classed in this country, may petition for the adoption of a certain law. A certain number of petitioners is required to give the proposed law a status in the legislature, which corresponds to the board of supervisors or county commissioners in Nebraska. That is the "initiative." Then the law has to be voted upon by the "legislature."

It is a matter of fact that most of these initiated laws are voted down. But if the legislature passes the law, or in fact any other law of general character, it must be submitted at an election of the voters, each law being separately submitted at an election called for that specific purpose. As a matter of fact, the laws so submitted are generally defeated, because a sufficient number of voters do not find it worth their while to turn out to give it the support of a majority of the registered electors.

It is said that the people of these cantons are getting very weary of this "reform," because of the fact that it requires so many elections and because the industrious Swiss have plenty to do without turning out every few weeks from their mountains and ravines to vote.

However, it must do some good. It certainly knocks out nearly all the new measures proposed in those cantons and gives the people more or less surcease from new legislation.

If this weariness has come over these little cantons in Switzerland because of the multiplicity of elec-

tions in which the voter is supplied with a full and complete copy of the law he is going to vote on, one can imagine the tired feeling that would come over the citizens of Nebraska if they were compelled to read and vote on forty or fifty or a hundred laws passed and submitted every two years by a legislature representing, not eleven or twenty or two hundred and fifty thousand people, but a million and a quarter.

Everybody who knows the stiff-neckedness of the average Nebraska voter will understand that in nineteen cases out of twenty at least, whether the proposed law was a good or a foolish one, it would be knocked out. Perhaps it would be a good thing on that account. Still it costs a heap of money to hold an election in Nebraska. The average canton in Switzerland contains 600 square miles, that is, a tract of land twenty by thirty miles in extent, about the average size of an eastern county in Nebraska, or the average size of a Nebraska county when this state shall have 125 counties. So the fuss and expense of a "referendum" in a Swiss canton would be about one hundred and twenty-fifth of that of celebrating the same thing in Nebraska.

But Mr. Bryan does not say in his platform that his initiative and referendum is to be confined to state legislation. Since his convention had to do with national affairs only, it is to be presumed that he wants it for the regulation of congress. And that would be gorgeous. Think of a national election twice a week to vote up or down each law of congress! It would certainly be fun for the boys who could get on the inside as judges and clerks of election.—State Journal.

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