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D. H. CRONIN, Editor.



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"BILLY" BRYAN seems to be losing his grip on what is left of the democratic party as well as on other things.

From present indications it seems to us that John Skirving will be mayor of O'Neill for the next year. He will make a good one.

Whatever else they may be, the Spanish officials in Cuba are proving by the better treatment they are giving Americans, that they are not fools.

Abolishing the presidential body-guard, established by Mr. Cleveland, was a very natural thing for Maj. McKinley to do. Mr. Cleveland was afraid of assassination; President McKinley isn't.

Two citizens of Nebraska have been found who did not want positions from the administration. John L. Webster and John C. Cowin were both offered the position of assistant secretary of war and both declined.

Poor Nebraska! Just came through a three year's drought and now entering upon a season of prosperity, to be burdened with a populist legislature; who are doing more to hurt the fair name of our state than a dozen droughts.

If our democratic friends were as certain as they pretend to be that the Dingley tariff bill will result in the downfall of the republican party, that measure would be put through the senate as rapidly as it is being put through the house.

UNCLE SAM bought the patent of a rapid firing gun the other day, not so much because he wanted it as because he could use it to compel the combination which controls the patents of the leading rapid firing guns to sell the government guns at a reasonable price.

Whatever democratic editors may say, the country will endorse the action of the republicans of the house in promptly passing the regular appropriation bills that failed at the last session of congress. Those bills had already been carefully considered by committees and it would simply have been a waste of time to have done it all over again.

The newspaper publishers do more work for nothing, for the public and individuals, than any other class of people. This is done every week in the month and every month in the year, and they do not receive as much as a "thank you" for it. They have to live and it takes money to pay their expenses, and when the law fixes a price on their work, whether it is done for the public or individuals, it ought to be paid, without rasping them each against the other to see if there is not some one among them to cut the price and give them a "rake off."

The free trade liars are now busy with the senate. It is entirely unnecessary to say that no republican senator will raise any objection to the Dingley tariff bill, because it is a protection measure. That the bill will be amended by the senate is certain—no tariff bill has ever been accepted by the senate without amendment—but the senate amendments that will be supported by republican senators will not make the bill less protective, and if any such amendments are added by the senate it will be by the combined votes of the democratic and populist senators.

## WILY WAYS.

LINCOLN, NEB., March 30—Special Correspondence: When all argument for a fair count had been exhausted when every fair and reasonable proposition had been rejected, when it became evident that there was a fixed and firm determination to count in two populist supreme judges regardless of the constitution or the law and when at last the court was appealed to, then there was a fluttering and a squawking among the populist vultures who are now hovering about the carcass of political spoil at the state house.

"A court!" shouted the little secretary, as he whipped through the executive office, in at one door and out at the other. "A court!" he screamed, as he hurried through the secretary of state's office and on into the nest where Ross is calling off affirmative votes at the rate of 16 to 1 and changing the constitution without waiting for the consent of anybody else on earth.

"A court!" repeated Maret in the ears of the attorney-general, who looked fiercely in earnest, that he, too, would have an opportunity to prance around the ring in this circus of reform.

"A court!" they repeated from one to another until the whole state house was in alarm. "If they attempt to interfere with this count by a court, they'll be trouble," said William Daily in the oil room. "There'll be blood shed," said Edmiston. "We'll call out the militia," said Maret, and he hastened to notify Captain Barry to get his tin soldiers into line and be ready for immediate action. Now this is not the first time that plotters and evil doers have been alarmed at the suggestion of a court. Some poet has said:

"No rouge e're felt the halter draw  
With good opinion of the law."

Ever since courts were first instituted as a part of the governing force of society men have appealed to them when the cause was just and feared them when the cause was wrong. And why should we not appeal to the court? What is the court for if not to appeal to? How long would our government last, what would it be worth, and what would become of the liberties and rights of the people if they were denied access to the court? But in all times and in all countries there have been some people just as selfish as these men are, and they have applauded or reviled the court as the decision went for or against them. The test of orderly citizenship is the willingness of the people to submit disputed questions to the regularly constituted courts. Let it be known that Nebraska, in addition to her crop failures, her defaulting republican officials, her ballot tampering, fraud concocting populist officials, has set aside her courts and closed the door of appeal, and the doors of credit, respect and confidence will close against us. In every state of the union the citizen may appeal from the act of the lawmakers to the decision of the judge. Even in the most lawless communities of the southern states they admit the law but defy its force. This governor, this legislature and this attorney-general not only defy but deny the law. They close the door of appeal. By a recent enactment they make it impossible for any citizen to appeal from their measures except through the attorney-general. They give the attorney-general power to appear and dismiss any appeal which the citizen may make against their enactments, which they say is "good enough law for anybody, and the court's decision is unnecessary." They are willing to appeal to the court when they know the law is on their side, but when they know the law is against them then they appeal to force.

If it were not serious in effect it would be ludicrous to see these reformers by turns applaud or revile the court as the tide of advantage is for or against them. When Judge Caldwell rendered an anti-railroad decision, when the supreme court of this state ousted a republican and put a populist in charge of the insane asylum, every populist hen fluttered up to the top of the hay stack and set up a noisy cackle over the new laid egg. They stood on

the street corners all over the country and crowed over these legal victories. The world has been full of these kind of people from way back.

When shylock thought the decision was coming his way he writhed and twisted and grinned with delight. "Oh, wise and upright judge," he exclaimed, "how do I honor thee?"

When the first proposition submitted by republicans in the Lancaster county court was decided against the republicans, the governor rushed out a special message and flouted the decision as a justification of the reconnt fraud. But when a case was brought in such a form as to test the validity of house roll No. 5, then he sent out over the signature of one of his clerks a letter to the populist press telling the people that a "jack leg" court of Lancaster county had undertaken an inquiry into the constitutionality of the act.

House roll No. 5, while it purported to give this counting board authority to call in the ballots, did not repeal the old law which commands the election boards to hold the ballots for one year. Any school boy knows that the old law would hold and the new would fall. They saw this when it was to late to remedy it and they knew that a test of the act would put an end to their business of changing the constitution by the Ross method. "Down with injunctions," had been a popular slogan during the "first battle," and they raised the cry again and shouted it from man to man.

Even Bryan, who has an \$8,000 a month monopoly by reason of an injunction, came to the state house to groan and commiserate and weep with an oppressed people who are being governed by courts and injunctions. The counters, the \$4 a day statesman whom the governor had recommended as the proper kink, each having lost his job temporarily, took on an injured look. The count ought to go on for their sakes if for no other reason. Oberfelt felt aggrieved that after coming all the way from Sidney on a pass, he was compelled to pass in his \$4 job on the order of a mere court. Maret was also indignant. He had submitted the bill to Judge Kirkpatrick of the supreme bench before he had ordered it passed by the legislature, the judge had gravely considered it, had called the other populist supreme judge into council over it, had decided that it would hold water for all practical purposes, and now a common district judge was about to inquire into it. Hadn't Kirkpatrick practiced law at Broken Bow? Hadn't he drawn chattel mortgages there that were strong enough to hold "a pair of white faced oxen with red ears," "a speckled cow named Speck," "a liver-colored mule with one eye," and "a black boar pig," so fast that he couldn't squeal, and didn't he know how to draw a bill for a little thing like this?

If we're goin' to count these fellows in," said Hull, when the scheme was first proposed, "hadn't we better make some sort of a law that will make it look all right to the people?" "Yes," said old Pappy Hill of Clay county, "put it in writin' so we can have suthin' to show for it." "Git one of our supreme judges to draw the bill," suggested Edmiston. "That's the stuff," said the little secretary, and before the sound of the word "stuff," which always lingers affectionately in the oil room, had died away, the slippery weasel of reform had whipped out of the oil room through the key hole, into the executive office through the transom, and was ringing the phone nervously for Kirkpatrick. And they drew the bill and they passed it with such tremendous energy that the gesticulations of anarchy raised himself, shook his mane, rattled his chains and shook with exultant fury, while the jabberwock of populism, waving its tail, flapping its wings, and flourishing its long ears, snorted like a war horse snuffing the battle from afar off. But now the old bill, house roll No. 5, has been superseded by a new bill, and under this new act the long lost Charley Ross is fixing our constitution in that "Dignified, conservative, patriotic and business-like manner," which

the governor promised in his interview to the eastern people, would characterize this administration. And it has been and is dignified. What could be more dignified than the senators waddling about like Roman gladiators over the prostrate forms of their clerks and others who had gone down under the slugging blows? Think of the dignity of the house as the reform members from time to time rushed at each other with clinched fists shouting, "You're a liar! You're a liar, and you're another!" But the dignity of this administration as exemplified in the house and senate pales into insignificance, when compared with the example of Charley Ross, as he flips up an affirmative ballot and calls out yes, then flips up the same ballot again and calls out another yes, and as the same ballot flips up and flops back a dozen times, the tally makers, bent over the table, record with dignified straight marks the progress of this flip flop method of amending the constitution. But I can't describe it. Come and see it. If you're a pop, send to Kirkpatrick or Maret for a pass. If you're a republican buy a ticket. But come. Come while you can see them feed the fierce gasticutis, while the jabberwock sits on its nest and sings, and while there is yet time to see the long lost Charley Ross, flipping an amendment into the constitution here, flopping a couple of new judges in there, and carrying forward the dignified, conservative, patriotic, and business-like plans of this administration.

J. W. JOHNSON.

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