

ABSORBING THE POPS

Sidelight Upon the Manner of Working Nebraska Fusion Schemes.

SOME CORRESPONDENCE REVEALED

Edmisten Pulling the Wires for Bryan—One Populist Who Refused to Be Swallowed—A Few Things That All Who Wish Their Country Well Should Read and Remember.

How Populists Were Caught.
In connection with the recent meeting of the members of the Populist National Committee, at Lincoln, some interesting correspondence has come to light, showing that it was a well-planned preliminary step toward capturing the Populist national organization for Bryan and fusion.

The character of the letters sent is shown in the letter which J. H. Edmisten, chairman of the Populist State committee, sent to his colleagues in the national committee, of which he is also a member. Among other things he said:

"Mr. Bryan will be here at fast time and would be pleased, I know, to meet as many of the national committee as possible. There are doubtless some matters in connection with the work of the national committee that should be carefully considered. That of holding our national convention thirty days before either of the other parties is one. Those supporting Baker and Donnelly should not, in my opinion, be permitted to take part in the meetings of our committee or convention."

"J. H. EDMISTEN."
Mr. Edmisten evidently did not know his man in one instance. Dr. Eskew replied under date of Poplar Bluff, Mo.:

"Yours of late date to hand and contents noted. In reply will say that I cannot take part in a meeting of your State committee, as I understand it will be a democratic meeting, and I was elected a member of the national committee from Missouri, if no other, and for that reason, if no other, I cannot and will not betray the confidence placed in me by the Populists of Missouri by taking part in a meeting that I believe is called for the benefit of the Democratic party."

"You say that those supporting Baker and Donnelly should not, in your opinion, be permitted to take part in the meeting of your committee or convention. Well, I think so myself, and I want you to see to it that no Populists are permitted in your meeting, for they have no business there. Yours,
"DEWITT ESKEW."
"Member People's Party Nat. Com."

Some Questions.
Will Secretary of State Porter and the populist state committee please answer?

Secretary of State Porter state he favors the re-organization of the secretaries of the state board of transportation. WHY?

Is it possible that he thinks that the law firm of Allen & Robinson are too largely represented in Congress?

Secretary of State Porter says that the reason he is in favor of it is because the people are not satisfied with the inaction of these secretaries.

The World-Herald says, "But he would be a bold and reckless prophet who, from present aspects, would forecast any awakening from the slothful and well paid slumber which has so markedly distinguished the office of the secretaries of the board of transportation under the present occupants."

If Secretary Porter and the World-Herald is correct, it is up to the Populist State Central committee who recently laid a resolution on the table instructing the secretaries to act.

Thus doth the great and good populist party have troubles of its own, and always will until the people rise in their might and discharge not only the secretaries but the whole machine ring.

Local Increase in Business.

The increase of postal receipts show the increase in business activity, and general prosperity. In the city of Lincoln the postal receipts for 1899 exceeded those of 1896 by \$43,763.52, being an increase of over 58 per cent. The increase in all departments over the receipts of 1898 has also been large. The increase in the weight of mail is 25 per cent, while the increase in stamp sales is over 15 per cent.

The increased postal receipts in Nebraska in bank deposits, the reduction of real estate indebtedness, the lowering of interest rates, the demand for laboring men, all furnish proof of the onward march of prosperity and the happiness and contentment of the people.

Three Prosperous Counties.

As proof of the great reduction in indebtedness that is being made in Nebraska, attention is called to the records made by the following counties:

Otoe, real estate mortgage reduction	\$113,117.92
Platte, real estate mortgage reduction	101,000.00
Richardson, real estate mortgage reduction	77,402.97

\$291,521.89

This record, which was made in 1899, is only a sample of what has been done by the other counties. Farming pays in Nebraska.

"A Ridiculous Cause."

Representative Sibley, one of the Bryan leaders in 1896, has seen the hopelessness of the silver issue. He says: "The cause I held sacred in 1896 has become ridiculous. I believe if the democratic party is victorious this fall it will not be able to write a single line of financial legislation in the next six years. If the democratic party is to live, it must have a policy."

THINGS TO REMEMBER.
* The individual deposits in the banks of Nebraska are nearly double what they were in 1896.
* Every man who voted for the seating of a polygamist in Congress was a democrat.
* The Nebraska Populist state committee is on record against any reduction in freight rates.
* The present Republican administration will provide for the building of a canal across the Isthmus of Panama.
* The legislatures of Maryland and Virginia voted down resolutions of invitation to Bryan to appear and make speeches.
* The United States shipped goods to the port of Havana in 1899 amounting to \$19,746,318. The total import duty receipts of the port for the year were \$8,500,582.
* For the year ending June 30, 1897, still under the Wilson law, the exports of breadstuffs from this country amounted to \$197,857,219 the following year, under the Dingley law, they amounted to \$333,897,119.
* Almost one-half of the receipts of the oil inspection department of Nebraska were used in 1897 and 1898, either to enrich an individual, or to furnish campaign funds to a sham reform party, the chairman of the party being responsible for the diversion.
* During 1899 the United States exported over sixteen million bushels of corn per month, and the average price was 40 cents per bushel.
* The total number of bushels shipped in 1898 and 1899 was over four times larger than the total for 1893 and 1894.
* Silverites say Ben Harrison was for free coinage. However, this is what Harrison said in his letter of acceptance in 1892: "I am thoroughly convinced that the free coinage of silver at such a ratio to gold as will maintain the equality in their commercial uses of the two coined dollars would conduce to the prosperity of all the great producing and commercial nations of the world." No 16 to 1 there.

RIDICULES A PROTECTORATE.

Auditor Andrews Comments on Bryan's New Ideas.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 23.—Auditor of the Treasury W. E. Andrews was asked by the Lincoln Journal correspondent this morning what he thought of Bryan's new position on the Philippine question.

"I see that Bryan is opposed to the retention of the Philippines, but wants this government to maintain a protectorate," said the auditor. "As a business proposition this looks ridiculous. If we were to give up the islands and at the same time protect the islanders from enemies, both within and without, our expense would go right on. We would have to maintain an army to restore order, and keep it ready to prevent encroachments of other nations."

"Then you think Bryan's idea would really result in imperialism instead of preventing it?"

"Yes, I do," said the auditor. "Under a protectorate there could be no reduction in the size of the army and not cutting down of expense. I believe both would be larger. They want us to give away our property and yet continue to guard and take care of it. Their pretended policy would involve every problem and difficulty that we have to meet, now, and would result in absolutely no benefit to us. In fact, it would in time be sure to bring on international complications."

"Suppose we gave up our claim to the property, and at the same time went to the expense of maintaining an army to guard it. And suppose that after a year or two Aguinaldo and his portable cabinet should sell the islands to some other nation, where would we be? It is impossible that Bryanism will be allowed to lead the country up to such a fiasco as that?"

Cannot Deliver.

State Journal: It was a republican congress that passed and a republican president that signed the only effective anti-trust law that is in our statute books. The Bryanites declare that it is not good for anything and that they must be put into power before anything can be done to down the trusts. But its mouthpieces and dictators was in congress four years and did not introduce or get anybody to introduce any amendment to the Sherman law. The alleged anti-trust laws passed by democratic or popocratic legislatures are all laughing stocks because they invariably turn out to be unconstitutional and void ab initio.

The same utter inability of that outfit to do anything that they promise to do is illustrated in this state where the fusionists have been elected to the executive and legislative offices for several years, on the pledge that they were going to do something decisive if not dreadful in the way of putting down "monopolies" and curbing the power of the transportation corporations. What have they done? The republican boards of transportation can point out in every year of their unostentatious exercise of the powers given them by the legislature, some valuable concessions by the railroad companies for the benefit of the public, notably the reduction of the corn rates in 1896 for the relief of the farmers to 15 cents, until they could snip their damaged crop that was "soft," in the subsequent arrangement of differentials so as to break up the monopoly of certain terminal points, and to a revision of the classification so as to equalize rates on many of the necessities of life. They made no fuss about the matter but accomplished their objects without going into courts, by good diplomacy and reasonable demands.

What have the fusionist outfit in the legislature and in the board of transportation accomplished in that past three years? Can they point to a single benefit to the production of their noise, in consideration of the salaries, expenses and lawyers' fees they have regularly drawn from the pockets of the people? What do they lack? Is it brains or diligence or a sense of obligation, or all three?

It is cited in evidence of the increased trade which expansion is likely to bring to the United States that the exports of this country to China, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines for the first eleven months of 1899 were \$38,000,000, against \$16,000,000 in the corresponding months of 1898, and \$15,000,000 in the corresponding months of 1897, while the fact that we will be able to buy more and more of our tropical products in those islands instead of sending the money to other parts of the world is shown by the fact that our imports from them were in the first eleven months of 1899, \$58,900,000 against \$39,000,000

Great Bank Deposits.

The state banks of Nebraska, according to their last report show individual deposits amounting to \$21,656,111.12; the national banks carrying \$28,859,660.38, according to the last published report of the Comptroller of the Currency. This makes a grand total of \$50,525,771.50, and is exclusive of United States deposits, which amount to \$928,969.27. This is an indication of prosperity that cannot be avoided by the calamity howlers. Compare it with the condition in 1896, after four years of democracy, and at a time when free silver was threatening the country.

Plain Democratic Talk.

General Simon Buckner, one of the old time democratic leaders, says: "The democratic party has no future until the element now in control has been wiped out, which, however, promises to be done at the elections of this year. Expediency, not principle, is the motto of this element; the energies of its leaders, Mr. Bryan, are engaged in hunting for an issue which he hopes will attract votes, and not to the promulgation of those great principles on which the democratic party rests."

THE SECRETARIES STAY

Proposition to Demand Their Resignation Voted Down.

MR. PORTER ONLY IN AFFIRMATIVE

Three Hours Consumed in Consideration of the Resolution—The Debate Quite Warm—New Complaints Against Railroads Filed for Consideration.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 1.—The resolution of Secretary of State Porter, demanding the resignation of Secretaries Laws, Dahlman and Edgerton of the State Board of Transportation, was voted down by a vote of 4 to 1, Mr. Porter being the only member favoring its adoption. About three hours' time was consumed in the consideration of the resolution and at the close of the meeting some time was spent discussing the future course to be pursued by the board and the secretaries. Every member formally expressed the opinion that hereafter whatever rates are found to be too high they should be reduced and that steps should be taken by the board or the secretaries to prevent any unjust increase in rates the railroads might attempt to make.

The meeting was called at the instance of Auditor Cornell, chairman of the transportation board, and after a date was set for the hearing of the complaint of Charles H. Johnson, Secretary Porter made the request that the board go into executive session. There was considerable opposition to this request. Treasurer Meserve announced that he did not think it wise to transact public business behind closed doors. Land Commissioner Wolfe said that it would be all right to take up in executive session any matter Mr. Porter might wish to bring before the board if it was something the public did not already know about or ought not to know about. Mr. Porter refused to submit his request in the form of a resolution, but it was finally brought up by another member and voted down.

The debate grew very warm toward the close of the meeting and in response to one of Mr. Meserve's questions Porter said that he did not propose to be catechised by any member of the board.

Porter moved the adoption of his resolution and Wolfe seconded the motion. A ye and nay vote was called for, which resulted as follows: Ye, Porter; nay, Cornell, Smyth, Wolfe, Meserve.

The complaint of Charles Johnson will be heard by the Board of Transportation and its secretaries on February 9 at Norfolk. It was suggested that any other complaint arising in that section of the state be considered at the same time.

Ed Cooper of Vest, Johnson county, complained to the board that the Burlington railroad refuses to furnish a sufficient number of cars to farmers living in its vicinity for the shipment of grain. He asserts that they are compelled to haul to the tracks of another railroad at a loss of several cents per bushel.

Lincoln A. Miller entered a complaint against the Rock Island railroad, alleging that it has violated the terms of a contract by tearing away a bridge over one of its tracks in Lancaster county.

Criminal Cases at Kearney.

KEARNEY, Neb., Feb. 1.—The information against Frank L. Dinsmore, charged with the murder of his wife and Fred Laue, and Theodore Nelson, charged with the murder of his father, were served upon them. Nelson pleaded not guilty and Dinsmore will answer later. Judge Sullivan appointed three doctors to examine Nelson to ascertain whether or not he is insane. Dinsmore's attorneys, it is thought, will ask for a change of venue, as they have been trying to get his affidavits to show that he cannot get an impartial trial in Buffalo county.

Plight of a Nebraska Girl.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 1.—A pretty girl of 16 years who gave the name of Muriel Ashton and said her home is at Lincoln, Neb., was found working in a boarding house here as a waiter. She has been masquerading as a boy several days. The boarders noticed that her clothes did not fit and that her voice was very fine for a boy. They communicated their suspicions to the boarding house keeper and an investigation was made. The girl admitted that she had run away from home dressed as a boy and that she had assumed that attire the better to escape detection.

Child Probably Fatally Burned.

WINSIDE, Neb., Feb. 1.—A young child of J. E. Hayes, manager of the American Grain company's elevator, backed against a hot coal stove and was probably fatally burned. The child ran across the room all aflame and would have gone upstairs if it could have opened the door leading into the hall. Mr. Hayes caught the child and burned two quilts in smothering the flames.

No Vacant Houses to Be Found.

IMPERIAL, Neb., Feb. 1.—Real estate is active in Chase county. There is a big demand for lands to rent and no vacant houses are to be found in any of the towns in the county.

Killed in a Runaway.

BERTRAND, Neb., Feb. 1.—Charles Malm, a farmer who lived three miles northwest of this place, received injuries in a runaway from which he died. Malm started to come to town, at the request of a neighbor named Power, to inform the doctor of the death of a child and was driving carried within a half mile of the starting point. His head struck the ground with great force, crushing his skull. Malm leaves a widow and several children.

WOMAN MEETS DEATH.

Fate of One of an Iowa Couple Who Ran Away Together.

FAIRBURY, Neb., Feb. 3.—Coroner

Dodge and County Attorney Denney were summoned to Harbine by telephone to look after the circumstances attending the death of a woman there. Investigation satisfied the officials that the woman died from natural causes. The man who was with her when she came to the village was arrested for unlawful cohabitation. He gave his name as J. Denning and said he was a physician, and had been treating the woman, whose name he gave as Mrs. Branham, for some illness.

He was brought before the county judge and pleaded guilty to the offense charged and was fined \$50. The woman's mother was telegraphed for and came on from Jewell Junction, Ia., to which place she took the remains for burial.

The doctor is much older than the woman, who was good looking. At the inquest it developed that her right name was Mrs. Nettie McConnell. Her mother, Mrs. Branham of Hawarden, Ia., arrived and identified the body as that of her daughter. She swore that her daughter was married several years ago to Charles McConnell, a brakeman on the Northwestern railroad and lived in Hawarden, Ia. She ran away from that place with the doctor about two months ago. The doctor swore his home was in Essex county, New York, and they traveled overland from Iowa here, stopping at various places. He claimed he has large property interests at that place.

SEEN IN HIS MOTHER'S GRAVE.

Henderson Excited Over an Attempted Robbery of a Corpse.

YORK, Neb., Feb. 3.—The town of Henderson is excited over what seems to have been an attempted grave robbery at the Russian Mennonite cemetery, two miles from Henderson. John Regier, who was hauling grain to town, passed the graveyard and noticing some one digging went to inquire who was to be buried. He found in a grave Frank Goosen and A. J. Nickol, two well known young men here, standing on the box containing the remains of Frank Goosen's mother, who had been buried nine months ago.

Goosen explained that the corpse was to be examined by doctors at York. On returning from town Regier met another farmer, who saw one of the boys leave, riding a bicycle, and the other carrying a large sack on his back, which appeared bulky.

All kinds of reports are in circulation. Goosen now claims that they did not disinter the coffin. The sheriff and others are at Henderson and intend to see if the remains have been taken.

State Capital Notes.

The Burlington railroad has filed an answer to the complaint of John O. Yeiser asking for an order compelling it to place a gate in the fence between the Burlington and Union depots in Omaha. The Burlington denies that it caused the fence to be constructed and therefore protests against the issuance of the order asked for by Yeiser.

The suit of John O. Yeiser to compel the city clerk of Omaha to submit the initiative and referendum to the vote of the people has been appealed to the supreme court.

Auditor Cornell has issued a letter to county clerks calling their attention to the necessity of assessing all property belonging to insurance companies that may be found in their jurisdiction.

The annual meeting of the Central Whist association will be held in Lincoln, February 9 and 10. Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota are represented in the association.

Objects to Freight Classification.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 3.—The Marble and Granite Dealers' association of Nebraska, which was in session here, adopted resolutions protesting against the classification of freight rates recently adopted by the railroads, which, it is alleged, increases the cost of transportation of shipments to and from points in Nebraska. A committee, consisting of F. B. Kimball, Lincoln; F. B. Alderman, West Point; Charles Neidhart, Beatrice; A. Neitzel, Falls City, and I. F. Paine of Grand Island, presented their case to the secretaries of the state board of transportation and requested them to use all lawful means to prevent the railroads from continuing the existing rates. In their complaint they assert that shipments formerly classified as fourth rate have been changed to third rate and those listed under class D to fifth rate.

The Industrial School.

KEARNEY, Neb., Feb. 3.—C. W. Hoxie has turned over the affairs of the state industrial school to his successor, J. N. Campbell. The transaction appeared to be very pleasant to both. There has been but one change so far, that of laundryman, but more will be made in a short time. Mr. Hoxie has rented a home here and will probably engage in business.

Taken to the Supreme Court.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 3.—John O. Yeiser of Omaha appealed to the supreme court today from a decision rendered by Judge Slabaugh of Douglas county refusing Yeiser a peremptory writ of mandamus to compel the city clerk to submit the initiative and referendum to a vote of the people of the city at the coming election next spring.

Smallpox Near Wymore.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 3.—The state board of health recently received information that two cases of smallpox had been discovered at Liberty, twelve miles from Wymore. Secretary Bailey of the board said that from the investigations that have been made it appears that the cases are smallpox of a most pronounced type, more malignant than those at Nebraska City last winter. Orders have been issued to have the strictest quarantine regulations enforced. As the cases are not in a thickly settled community the danger of an epidemic is not great.

WESTERN CANADA.

Crop Prospects and Climate About Edmonton, N. W. T.—Interesting Letter from Mrs. S. A. Brigham, Late of Mason City.

The following extracts from an interesting letter to the Mason City (Ia.) Republican, written by Mrs. S. A. Brigham, late of that place, but now of Ross Creek, Alberta, Canada, so nearly describe" most of the districts of Western Canada that we take pleasure in presenting same to the attention of our readers:
Ross Creek, Albert, N. W. T., Canada, Aug. 7, 1899.

Editor Mason City Republican—Dear Sir: We are located in the Beaver Hills, 30 miles from Ft. Saskatchewan and 50 miles from Edmonton. To the east of these is an immense area of bottom lands, which furnishes an abundance of hay for the settlers. It is dotted with small lakes, the largest of which is called Beaver Lake, 16 miles in length.

The Beaver Hills are covered with small green willows which are easily gotten rid of before breaking up the land. Here and there poplar, birch and tamarack trees abound. Small meadows are numerous. The soil in these hills is much richer than the bottom lands, being a kind of black loam. There is no tough sod to break, and it is very productive. Wheat, oats and barley do finely and vegetables are the finest that can be grown. Potatoes especially are large and solid, easily producing from 200 to 300 bushels per acre, and best of all never a "taty bug" to wrestle with. Wild fruit, strawberries, gooseberries, saskatoons (or pine berries), raspberries and cranberries, are found in the hills. Small game fruit does finely, the red and white currants in my garden are as large again as common sized ones.

We have long days during the months of June and July; one can see to read many evenings until 10 o'clock in the twilight. Some nights less than 3 hours of darkness, and the birds are singing at 2 o'clock. Then again, it rains so easily. You look toward the west and see a little cloud coming up, a gentle shower follows, the sun shines forth again, and in a little while you forget it has rained.

Cyclones are unknown here and the thunder and lightning is very light. We had two storms this summer accompanied with wind and hail, but nothing to lodge the grain. The average heat is about 78 degrees. We had three or four days in July at 90. The nights are always cool.

The winter season is one of great activity. All the fencing is gotten out then and logs for the farm buildings. By paying 25 cents you are granted a permit at the land office to cut logs upon vacant lands. The roads are good and smooth, for the snow never drifts, not even around the buildings, and this is a great saving of time to the farmer. Hay is hauled from the bottom lands all winter long, and a man can work outside every day as far as the weather is concerned. There are cold snaps when it reaches 40 and 48 below zero, but the lack of wind prevents one realizing it and the mountains 150 miles west of us are a great protection. Our neighbors are mostly Canadian, Scotch, Swede, and we have a nice sprinkling of people from the states. The creeks abound in small fish.

We are now in the midst of hay-making (Aug. 7). Wheat will not be cut until early September, this being a little later season than common, but the crop will be immense. I send you a sample of wheat and barley—its height is almost even with my shoulders, average 50 inches. New comers lacking binders can hire their grain cut for 75 cents per acre. Prairie chickens are here by the thousands. The water is good. We have a fine well 15 feet deep. In the creeks the water is soft and of a yellowish color.

Now for the drawbacks (we have them), but nothing very serious. The mosquitoes are simply abominable, especially after a shower. Then again we are surrounded with bachelors; we have no less than 18 single men in this neighborhood, on matrimony bent. When a feminine gender of any age between 14 and 40 visits these hills we ply her, so great is the demand for her company.

In conclusion, if the remainder of our loved ones were here with us, we should better enjoy life on Ross Creek, and unless the unexpected develops, consider this will be a pretty fair place to end our days.

MRS. S. A. BRIGHAM.

New Booklets.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway is issuing a series of booklets regarding points of interest along its lines, and if you are interested in the western country, or contemplating a trip, write Geo. H. Heafford, General Passenger Agent, Chicago, Ill., for the special publication desired, enclosing four cents in stamps for postage.

- No. 1. The Pioneer Limited.
- No. 2. The Land of Bread and Butter.
- No. 3. The Fox Lake Country.
- No. 4. Fishing in the Great North Woods.
- No. 5. The Lake Superior Country.
- No. 6. Cape Nome Gold Diggings.
- No. 8. Summer Days in the Lake Country.
- No. 9. Summer Homes, 1900.
- No. 10. The California of To-Day.
- No. 11. The Game of Skat.

Speaker Henderson made an apt reply to a remark that the speaker's duties were really shockingly aging him: "Well," replied Mr. Henderson, "I am not so young as I was, but I am not by 20 years so old as I hope to be at the proper time."

You can't tell by the blossom which of the apples will be wormy.

In Baltimore a rattlesnake bit a professional elocutionist and died. It died by request presented by a shotgun. The elocutionist drank whisky until he saw more snakes and recovered.

The appointment of General Bernardo Reyes as minister of war of Mexico is generally taken to mean that he will be the successor, at the end of the next four years, of President Diaz. Diaz has long reposed the utmost confidence in Reyes and will make the new war minister his personal representative while he is away on his tour.