

The Frontier

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The smoke has cleared in Iowa politics and things have reached the white heat stage.

The Iowa courts hold that railway companies do not have to run their cars onto private tracks, and this looks like good law.

The pops are lining up to be welded with the democrats again this year. Conventions will be held simultaneously at Lincoln August 15.

A ward attendant at the Norfolk asylum said at the investigation of the charges of mistreatment of patients that he was only coddlin' when he used a buggy whip on the patients.

The story that the mayor of Lincoln gave out the information that the lumber dealers of the state were raising a large fund to defeat the Norris Brown candidacy for senator has been nailed as a lie by Mayor Brown. That is, he says he didn't say it.

If the lumber dealers' association is not a trust, the suit brought against it by Attorney General Brown can do no harm; if it is a trust the public ought to know it. In either event, the bitterness of the lumber dealers toward Brown is creating considerable suspicion.

Added to the other griefs of the meat packers comes a conviction in court at Kansas City of the Armour, Swift and Cudahy companies for accepting rebates. The statute under which conviction was obtained provides for fines of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$20,000 on each count.

Obituary of Omaha and Currie of Broken Bow are two late arrivals for memorial honors. The people generally might have looked with some favor on Judge Crounse's candidacy had the Omaha Fontanelles kept in the background. As for Currie it looks like Norris Brown had too much of a lead in that section of the state for him to develop a formidable following.

Congressman Kinkaid has earned a nomination and reelection. He is a valuable representative for the district and would be a credit in any branch of government service. In fact, there are a host of people in both Nebraska who prefer the judge for senator to any yet mentioned. It would not, by the way, be at all out of place to allow the north part of the state one of the senators.

There is nothing in the endorsement of Bryan by Missouri and Arkansas democrats to get excited over.

The public's good health is of more importance than any material industry, Mr. Day to the contrary notwithstanding. When conditions in the great packing plants were a menace to public health and after fair warning by the administration the packers refused to rectify the evils, it was clearly up to the administration to do something. The meat business will suffer temporarily, but better it should, a thousand times better, than for the public health to suffer.

The Independent last week gave space to a lengthy production of billingsgate from the Nebraska Liberal, a political and particular yellow sheet published over at Creighton in which all the political sensations and exaggerations and misrepresentations and falsehoods published by the newspaper renegades and sensationalists from Maine to California finds a place. The Liberal is edited with a pair of shears, with an occasional original product like its assault on The Frontier. It comes at us with a very edifying lot of rot about Bartleyism. Perhaps the Liberal doesn't know nor the Independent doesn't know that when the prince of defaulting Nebraska officials was languishing in the penitentiary—where he ought to be today—the only democrat holding office in Holt county today circulated a petition for his release from the pen and this petition was signed by such as the chairman of the county central committee of the high and mighty reformers of Holt county. The World-Herald, the head and tail of democracy and popocracy in Nebraska, was another active factor in securing Bartley's release and extolling Governor Savage for his inexcusable pardon. The close association of democratic politicians with the grafters and defaulters kicked out of the republican party in Nebraska is notorious, and it is commonly known that some of the loudest declaimers of the defalcations around here got their hands the deepest into the boodle.

"RAILROAD DOMINATION"

Senator Sheldon Out for Governor On Platform That May Prove Popular.

Senator George L. Sheldon of Cass county has his stakes set for the republican nomination for governor. He states "where he is at" in the following language:

"As it seems to me, the most important work for the people of Nebraska now is to assume and to take active control of the state government and the public affairs.

"I mean that the thing most needed in Nebraska is a complete establishment of a true representative government. One that will carry out the will of the public untrammelled by railroad domination. We have the form of representative government in this state, but we need more of the spirit and the power of it and the force of coming directly from the people. We need in the conduct of our public affairs more of the influence of disinterested citizens and less of the self-seeking railroad politician."

"The government is, to a large degree, what the official does in his official capacity. If the official acts for the whole public, then it is truly rep-

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representative government, because his acts represent the public will. But if the official's act is directed by the railroad influence, then it is government by railroads."

"We have had too much of this government in Nebraska. There is an opportunity now to put an end to it, for a time at least, and it ought to be done. The railroads have a right to expect, and should have, fair treatment. But they have in the past, however, had a great deal more than fair treatment. They have actually dictated the state government in many important matters. In the matter of taxation they have attempted to lessen their taxes by lending their efforts towards increasing the value of all other property within the state. Some of them have refused to pay the taxes that have been regularly assessed and levied on their property, and have appealed to the courts. Because the attorney general understood that it was his duty as a public official and to enforce taxation on all property alike, and has stood unequivocally for the enforcement of the law, he has incurred the enmity of the railroad politicians, and they are attempting to retire him to private life, just as they have in the past been retiring all public men who have referred to serve the public rather than to serve the railroads."

"The stand taken by the attorney general gives us an object lesson of self-government that is good. He certainly should receive the commendation of all good citizens who believe in 'equality before the law' for the stand he has taken. Other officials at the house have resisted railroad dictation, and there has been a splendid beginning there and at the national capitol. Now it seems to me that the people ought to back up this beginning by getting themselves into the primaries and caucuses and sending their influence untrammelled by railroad dictation to a state convention of independent and untrammelled men, who will be, in fact, representatives of the people."

"The railroads have dominated state politics in Nebraska for a long time. It has mattered not to them what party was in office, they have been constantly at the helm. Through the free use of passes and a strong organization they have been able to exert a powerful influence over legislation, and over the acts of public officials. For that reason they have had their own way, and there is now no law on the statute books to curb their greed in extortionate freight charges. The transportation companies are entitled to receive a reasonable and just compensation for their services, but it is generally conceded that their charges are, and have been, not reasonable but extortionate in many cases, and that they are wringing from the Nebraska producers millions of dollars annually that in justice they are not entitled to."

"It will be up to the next legislature to settle this question and establish more equitable rates. It is up to the people now to determine what the next legislature will do. If the people expect that legislature, in the handling of this rate problem, to consider their interests and to represent the whole public, they must get into the caucuses, the primaries and the county conventions, and exert their influence and the force of their will in nominating of these legislative members. "The last legislature made some progress towards rate control. The Cady amendment, in my judgment, should be adopted at the election this fall. It is a beginning. It is a commencement

of control by the public. Now, as I said before, the important thing for the people is to get into the primaries and the county conventions with their influence, so that the influence will be the moving power that will control the next legislature."

"If we are to have just legislation, and a railroad commission that will enforce such legislation, the people must put the force of their influence into the state convention that nominates this commission. This can be done if the people get into the caucuses and primaries, and we will have rate regulation and rate reduction that will save millions annually in freight charges to the whole public."

"Now, the question is, 'What are the Nebraska people going to do about it?' It is up to them. If they want a state government that will represent their interests they must get into the caucuses where this government starts. If the people neglect the primaries they will lose the battle. If they lose out there, at the beginning, they will lose the whole cause. The public is demanding a square deal. There is a deep sentiment among all the people for this. It is the shibboleth of the American people throughout the whole country. It is the people's government and they want it to have regard for their rights."

"But in this struggle for a square deal we must remember, as citizens, to build up, and not tear down. We must put in force everywhere the motto of our state, 'Equality before the law.' You can trust the representatives of the people to deal fairly with the railroads and the corporations, but you cannot trust the representatives of the railroads and trusts to deal fairly with the people."

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT.

"Democrats are complaining that Roosevelt stole the ideas upon which his popularity was built out of a democratic platform," observes that time honored pop organ, the Nebraska Independent. "But nobody ever heard them complain that their party confiscated the whole platform of the populists in 1896, and in addition to the platform scooped in a couple of million populist votes."

"The cigarette fiend is being hit hard upon all sides in the business world," observes the Bonesteel Pilot. "The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad company has announced that every employee on the company found smoking cigarettes will be deprived of employment. They have ascertained to their satisfaction that the cigarette fiend cannot, or does not, perform his duties in as satisfactory a manner as does the other fellow."

A recent writer calls attention to the fact that during the past few years 33 per cent of the people of Russia have been on the verge of starvation. This, together with the lack of fixed wealth, has made it an uphill task for the peasants who were allotted lands under the emancipation act. The liberated peasants were given the land without means to cultivate it and they have rarely been able to secure the necessary fixed capital. Their poverty made them ready victims of the money lenders and that assisted in sapping their economic power. With people in such condition there would be little surprise if there was a repetition of the French revolution. The starvation of the French peasants was one of the chief causes of the revolution. An empty stomach is a surer cause of discontent than any allegiance to principle."

The Oakdale Sentinel hands out a bit of local logic. It says: "Build up your home town! The only way it can be done is by lending your support to every home enterprise. Keep within your community every dollar earned within it, and bring into it every dollar that through your efforts are earned elsewhere. Bear in mind that an enterprise that will give employment to a dozen hands, even though its capital may not be great, means the supporting of a number of families, and helps make a better home market for the produce that is raised on the farm."

"When smitten, offer the other cheek, was advice none too good for Mayor Dahlman, of Omaha, according to the story given out by his friends," says the Sioux City Tribune. "When Mr. Bryan went to congress in 1892 from the First Nebraska district, Dahlman wanted an appointment to the United States marshalship, but lost out. At that time he stated that he would make Bryan president. Now he proposes to organize a Nebraska association to prepare for the homecoming reception of the leader and to work for his nomination to the presidency. Dahlman may have an eye on the United States senate. That would represent a pretty big contrast with his early employment as a cowboy. However, there is a good example of the work a former cowboy may do, and Dahlman's ambition may not be so far fetched."

"Like Shylock, with his judgment of a pound of flesh, an Omaha jeweler has been placed in the dilemma of not being able to claim his property awarded by the court except at the risk of murder," comments a Missouri paper on a police court item at the Nebraska metropolis. "In this instance the pound of flesh is a \$300 diamond in the verform appendix of a self-confessed shop-lifter. A swell dressed young woman, while being shown a tray of diamonds, slipped one of the finest of the stones into her mouth. Surprised by detectives, she swallowed it. But modern science is not baffled by so simple a trick. The X-ray was applied to the young woman and the stolen diamond was located in her appendix. 'The diamond is yours,' says the police judge to the jeweler. 'Take it; but if you resort to a surgical operation against the prisoner's will, and she dies, you can be held for murder.' The doctors say the diamond can be removed only by an operation, and that if it is not removed the young woman will surely die. 'I will die before I will let them operate,' she says stoutly. The right to resist operation for appendicitis must not be broken down. If it should be, few of us might escape the knife. Few enough escape as it is. It was in this same city that a noted physician recently declared that not over three per cent of the operations performed for appendicitis were justified. The appendix is supposed to be an organ of no use. But one that catches and holds a \$300 diamond has its virtues, and none can blame the prisoner for insisting upon retaining it. True, a diamond in the appendix is of no use. But of what use is a diamond anyway?"

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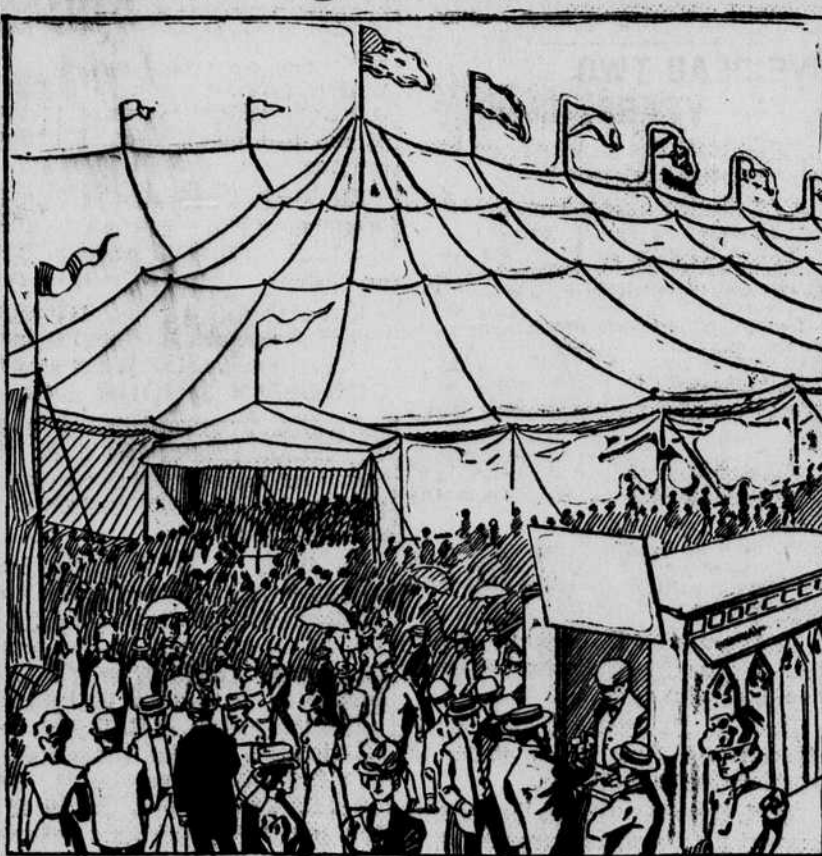
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