

The Plattsmouth Daily Herald.

KNOTTS BROS., Publishers & Proprietors.

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DEMOCRATIC ANXIETIES.

The anxiety of democrats to make it certain that Mr. Blaine is not to be the republican candidate affords food for thought. If there were any real belief that Mr. Blaine could be easily or surely beaten, not a democratic journal in the country would be found suicidally anxious to lessen democratic chances, by sending a correspondent from London to Florence in the vain hope of extracting from Mr. Blaine some new statement of his position, as "The World" did last week.

The question has passed beyond Mr. Blaine's reach. What he wants, the country knows. What the republican party wants it will determine in convention after due consideration. If it finds a candidate upon whom it can unite with confidence of success, the nomination of that candidate will be heartily made and supported. But Mr. Blaine cannot answer for the party on that point, nor can individual members, until its voters have expressed their wishes in the selection of delegates. It is fortunate for the party and for the country that there is to be the kindest but most candid examination of the merits and prospects of different candidates, so that elements of strength or of weakness in each case may be duly weighed.

Some people are anxious to know "what Mr. Blaine's friends propose." The question is a foolish one. Whoever has his eyes open can see that Mr. Blaine's friends are much divided. Some of them prefer one candidate and some another; some has as yet expressed no choice, while others have stated that they believed the nomination of Mr. Blaine, in spite of his objection, the wisest thing that could be done.

Of one thing all men may be sure, that the nomination will not be made by the men, or by representatives of the men, who opposed Mr. Blaine because they were hostile to the principles of the party. It will be held a paramount necessity that the candidate shall be thoroughly known as a sincere, earnest and uncompromising advocate of the protection of American industries. Any other candidate than Mr. Blaine will need, much more than he would need, the strength which that principle can give, because no other has had for years past so much of the confidence of his party.

The Democratic convention comes first. By no choice of Republicans, who fixed an early day because willing to act without waiting for their adversaries, and against the first deliberate judgment of a majority of the Democratic national committee, the date of the Democratic Convention has been fixed earlier in order to avoid the heat of July in St. Louis. This change may prove most important. No action in congress, after Mr. Cleveland's nomination, can alter the meaning of a nomination based on his message, which was devoted to the tariff question exclusively. The problem for Republicans is therefore much simplified by the certainty that the Democratic candidate and platform, and in case of Mr. Cleveland's nomination the predominant issue of the campaign, will be determined before the Republican convention assembles.

Tax twisting and squirming of the Journal man in his attempt to pose as the friend of labor is indeed painful. The statement of the Journal "that it is the duty of the city and state to protect property within its borders" is true enough, but it is a duty and not a mere pastime; and if someone having large private interests, should see fit to guard those interests themselves, it should be no one else's business, unless, some heavy taxpayer like the Journal should demand that its taxes be increased in order to pay the increased burden of protect-

ing property. The idea of condemning the mayor for refusing to swear in strikers as special policemen is of itself ridiculous, yet that is at the bottom of the Journal's complaint. Taking another view of it,—the Journal has insisted all along, that the people of this city were practically unanimous in favor of the strikers. If that were true, don't you think that kind of a citizen would be a nice man to protect company property which is being damaged by this strike, or in the words of A. B. Smith, if a man doubted his wife he probably would not set the suspected man on guard. The Journal may continue to preach anarchy and communism but its sympathizers in this city are too scarce to effect the management of city affairs.

Meaning of the Word "Kongo."

It has been generally accepted that the translation of the name "Kongo" is "the country of leopards," the root ko meaning "the country," and ngo "leopard." Janko, in Petermann's Mittheilungen, shows that this translation is not satisfactory, as, according to the rules of the Bantu language, these two words cannot be combined into the word "Kongo." He discusses the various forms of this word as found among the tribes of the Lower Kongo—the Bakongo, who live on the river, from its mouth to Stanley Pool; the Bateke, who occupy the regions between the Kuango and Kongo, and the Kongo and Alima; the Babuna, northwest of the last tribe; and the Bayanzi, between Leopold lake and the Kongo. The Bakongo name of the river is "Kongo," that used by the Bateke is "Songo," and the Bayanzi say "Rongo."

A Paris Book Exchange.

Some ingenious individual has organized a "Book Exchange" in Paris which might possibly be imitated with profit in this country. Membership costs three francs and fifty centimes (seventy cents); that is the reader buys a book—not in paper covers, but a well bound volume—and pays this amount in cash. On a fly leaf he will find a list of "sub agencies," principally in large hotels, restaurants, etc., where he may upon payment of an additional fifty centimes (ten cents) surrender his book and get another, and so on, ad lib. It is optional at any time for the subscriber to surrender a book definitely and receive three francs in payment therefor.—Public Opinion.

A Very Old Stone.

Peter Druckenbrod, of Lancaster, Pa., has a stone that was cast in 1763. It has but one door, that for putting in wood in front, and has what is supposed to be a coat of arms on the front. On each side is the head of a woman, and "H. W. Stiegel, 1769, Elizabeth Furnace." At the lower corners of the sides are Masonic emblems, and on the back the figure of a man standing against a tree.—Chicago Herald.

Wanted to Know.

(Washington. Mother and little daughter passing a government building, over the door of which is the sign, "Bureau of Statistics." Youngest—Dearest, what are "Statistics?" Dearest—Oh, I don't know—figures. Youngest—Figures? Which do you mean—images, or "one, two, three?"—Harper's Bazar.

A Kansas Newspaper.

There is a newspaper published in Kansas called The Thomas County Cat. If the editor had ever lived in New York he would omit the word "county," and publish his paper about 10 p. m. on moonlight nights.—New York Tribune.

A Revised Version.

"Forgive us our trespasses and lead us not into the temptation." Is the revised version used by a pious little negro boy in New Orleans.

Items for Coal Dealers.

Taking into consideration the gradually diminishing radiating surface, the conclusion has been arrived at that the sun cannot give out sufficient heat to support life on the earth after the lapse of 10,000,000 years.—Globe-Democrat.

How Men Die.

If we know all the methods of approach adopted by an enemy we are the better enabled to ward off the danger and postpone the moment when surrender becomes inevitable. In many instances the inherent strength of the body suffices to enable it to oppose the tendency toward death. Many however have lost these forces to such an extent that there is little or no help. In other cases a little aid to the weakened lungs will make all the difference between sudden death and many years of useful life. Upon the first symptoms of a cough, cold or any trouble of the throat or lungs, give that old and well known remedy—Boschee's German Syrup, a careful trial. It will prove what thousands say of it to be, the "benefactor of any home."

General Lew Wallace has purchased a residence in Indianapolis, and will remove there from Crawfordsville, Ind., in the spring.

George W. Cable lectured in the Y. M. C. A. Hall of Boston the other night and books for the library served as admission tickets.

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LOCKS AND BARRELS.

A UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICER TALKS ABOUT RIFLES.

The Leading Characteristics of the Different Inventions—An Expert's Explanations Concerning the Various Weapons of Note—Magazine Guns.

"What can you tell me about the history and merits of this rifle?" asked the reporter of Capt. S. A. Day, picking up a handsome Springfield. "That is beginning right at home," was the reply. "The Springfield rifle is the one with which our own troops are armed. It has the hinged breech block, with the upward and forward action. It is a good gun, and has done good service, but it is a little out of date. It is good for 800 yards, but not a foot further. We have tried to shoot it at 1,000 yards, but our only hope was with it at that distance is 'scratching,' or accidental scores."

"What is this?" "That is a gun we have all heard a great deal about—the Martini-Henry rifle, with which the English army is provided. It has been used in more countries than any other rifle, except possibly the Remington. In one respect it is just the opposite of the American army gun. It has the hinged breech block, opening backward and downward, instead of forward and upward. This is an excellent gun. The barrels are well made and the British manufacturers have the knack of grooving it very effectively. It is the gun shot in international matches. American riflemen should have great respect for this gun, for it is the one with which our national teams have been twice defeated. It is a handy gun—it is a 'gunny' gun. It feels like a gun in the hand. A man would not that gun almost anywhere if he had plenty of ammunition.

"Here is a Sharps rifle—isn't that a little out of date, too?" "There are no more of them made now, except one once in a while by hand. This is the style of weapon that was sent from the east to border settlers in Kansas and Nebraska, along with Bibles, during the troublous times just before the war." This individual gun," continued Capt. Day, patting the butt affectionately, "is a very fine long range Sharps-Borchardt. It is a gun with a history, having won many prizes at long range, not, however, in my hands. It is used by marksmen when they lie down or double and twist their bodies into almost every figure known in the constellations of the heavens. Its action is excellent, having a square, falling breech block, containing the hammer and lock. It strikes the primer in the prolongation of the bore, thus causing the least possible disturbance of the piece in firing."

"What can you say about this Remington?" "That is the gun formerly known among national guardsmen as the 'gas pipe.' There have been more guns of this kind made for and used by armies, raiding parties, filibustering expeditions, insurrections, etc., than of any other gun ever invented. It has a rolling block, falling backward and downward, leaving a free way through the barrel for inspection and cleaning. It is simple in itself, and has an excellent action. The barrel, however, is too light for long range or heavy work, but it has killed many a man in many a clime."

"This other gun, I believe," said the reporter, "you referred to as being a remarkable gun with a remarkable record. Is it not an ordinary Winchester repeating rifle?" "Rather an extraordinary one. This particular gun has been fired more than 40,000 times by Dr. Carver and is still in fair order, showing only a little weakness of the mainspring. The Winchester is the leading sporting gun of the world, and more game has been killed by it than with all other guns put together."

"But this brings us into the domain of magazine guns. There are three pronounced leading types, with some twenty-five or thirty variations of which I have knowledge, and there are doubtless a great many more individual modifications of these types. For purposes of convenience I have selected the Winchester, the Lee and the Spencer as typifying the three great classes."

"The well known Winchester has a fixed tubular magazine, with lever action. The Hotchkiss is a bolt gun, with a tubular magazine in the butt instead of in the stock, as is the case with the Winchester and many others. There," said Capt. Day, after ejecting a number of shells over his shoulder from both guns, "you can see how complicated are the motions necessary in using these guns."

"The Lee magazine stands alone of its kind, although there are many modifications of it. It is a detached magazine, with cartridges superimposed one upon the other like the fingers on the hand. The great and important feature of this gun is the detachability of the magazine. As a military man, I have no hesitation in saying that it is just as important as that it is just as important as the magazine for cartridges as it is for them to be supplied with fixed bayonets. When an order to 'fix bayonets' has been given and obeyed, an officer knows that his men are prepared to make a charge at the word of command. Why should not similar security be felt when wanting to repel an attack? After the command 'fix magazines' an officer may rely upon all his men having their magazines full and in position. Nothing could give him greater confidence in a crisis. This is the best system for troops of which I have any knowledge. The Lee, however, has a feature in common with many other guns which, personally, I do not like—it is a bolt action. A prejudice is a heavy load for any man to carry through this world, but my whole experience has tended to increase my dislike for bolt guns. The inventor of this gun, however, Mr. James P. Lee, was so expert with it that he could have three or four shots on the way to a 1,000 yard target at one time. Such skill is attainable by few men, and the bolt action is necessarily slow in the hands of an ordinary soldier."

"Mr. C. M. Spencer, the ingenious inventor of the rifle so well known during our late war, is still living. The Spencer rifle is something new. It is an American gun, although it has been very remarkably improved by Col. George V. Fosbery, an English army officer now in this city, who is an expert not only in its invention, but in its manufacture and use. It has a sliding piece on the stock, with a trombone movement." Capt. Day hereupon gave an exhibition of the rapidity and ease with which the Spencer can be fired. A quick backward slide of the left hand threw out the empty cartridges, while a rapid forward motion placed the piece again in condition for firing, the whole not occupying a second of time. "This is an admirable contrivance," he continued. "It requires the use of two hands, however—one to eject and load the cartridges into the chamber from the magazine, while the other simply grasps the small of the stock and pulls the trigger."

"New York Times Interview." Dar nether will come er time wen er brave man won't be spotted. Folks allus will think dat de meat o' de game chicken is sweeter den de meat o' de shanghsi.—Arkian War Traveler

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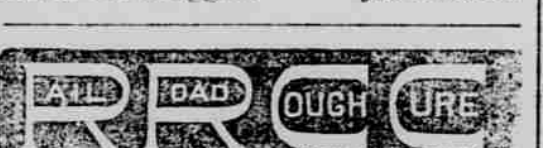
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