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KNOTTS BROS., Publishers
 Published every Thursday, (and daily every
 evening except Sunday).
 Registered at the Plattsmouth, Neb. post-
 office for transmission through the U.S. mails
 at second class rates.
 Office corner Vine and Fifth streets.
 Telephone 38.

TERMS FOR WEEKLY,
 One copy, one year, in advance \$1.50
 One copy, one year, not in advance 2.00
 One copy, six months, in advance 75
 One copy, three months, in advance 40
 Single copies, 10 cts.
 Advertising rates on application.
 The Herald, per month 25

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1901
 The result of the election to succeed in 1902, how could it be otherwise with a democratic congress working to that end? There never was so potent a factor in returning republican majorities as the continuous blundering of the democratic party.

A copy of the Sidney Telegraph sent us by George Fairfield, of Minatare, Cheyenne county, contains a two column article devoted exclusively to Mr. Purnell, their alliance member of the legislature. He is flayed alive for his base treachery of the interests he was supposed to guard, and instead of improving the irrigation laws, the fat witted egotist has injured his county by amendments to the law that will be a serious drawback to those who desired to irrigate their lands extensively. Mr. Purnell, we are lead to believe, did not get a word of condemnation that was not merited.

With Hill against free trade, and Cleveland against free coinage, the democratic platform makers it would seem have a hard job to perform; but they haven't. Either of the two gentlemen, full of democratic patriotism (2), we wager would accept the nomination on any kind of a platform or without a platform altogether. These modern democrats, after suffering so many defeats, have become a sort of self-adjustable affair that veers with the prevailing wind. If the drift is towards tariff reform, they are tariff reformers; if toward protection, they are protectionists; and so on through the list of national policies.

GREAT results were loudly proclaimed by the astute eastern press as bound to follow the enlistment of Indians into the ranks of the regular army. Erudite editorials were penned by men who never saw an Indian, except in a dime museum, showing how nicely the Indian question had been grappled with and settled. All this moralizing, however, has come to naught since the noble red man refuses point blank to join the army. He likes to fight when he gets mail, but to make a business of it under strict discipline won't do, and Mr. Injun is too smart to try it. The stealing is better outside the ranks, and the danger of work is too great, so that another important question settled by the metropolitan newspapers refuses to remain settled.

OUR neighbor has an argument in favor of free trade and he did not get it out of the Cobden free trade pamphlets either. Like the boy who made the windmill, he made it all out of his own head, and has bass wood enough left to make another. It is this: Great Britain has got along somehow with the balance of trade against her for a few years last past; hence America should follow in her free trade neighbor's footsteps, "it is English you know." The editor of the Journal might have introduced a better example of an individual getting along with the balance of trade against him by holding himself up as the bright example. Of course it makes no difference how the fellows who pay for such prosperity feel, just so the shining example shines with the balance of trade against him—Working men with their starvation wages in Great Britain understand how comfortable it is to have to put up for the balance on the wrong side of the ledger. The Journal knows that the balance of trade don't count when it is at some other fellows expense. It is always a sign of prosperity to pay out more than you receive.

BLAINE IN LONDON.
 The holders of South American securities in London have an organ of their interests called the South American Journal. In a recent issue of the Journal a plaintive cry is set up over the prospect of the development of United States interests in South America and the West Indies under the mastery policy of Secretary Blaine, who, to use their own phrase, is "making the world

ally.
 Has the Cobden club sent its papers to Mr. Blaine? If not they ought to lose no time in forwarding a consignment of free trade literature to that gentleman. After McKinley, no public man is more in want of conversion to the true fiscal faith. With the McKinley act bludgeoned in one hand and most tempting offers of commercial reciprocity in the other, Mr. Blaine is making the world "jumpy." He has practiced his arts on Canada, and done more than appears on the surface to shake his loyalty to the master country. He has succeeded in captivating Brazil with "sugared" promises, and before other South American states he is dangling his inducements. In the hope of a long and profitable partnership for the United States, Cuba, Haiti, Santo Domingo, under the influence of their respective embassies, who, in a commercial reciprocity, seeks to provide for the interests of the United States, are all in a state of "jumpy" anticipation. No wonder our attitude is that of phlegmatic observation.

ELECTION OF U.S. SENATORS BY THE PEOPLE.
 Many papers of late have called attention to the election of United States senators in Florida and other states, pointing out the evils of such elections by the legislature, in short, calling for the election of United States senators by the people. All writers on this subject jump at once to the conclusion that the election by the people can only be obtained by a revision of the constitution of the United States. Of course a constitutional provision to that effect would be more binding, and the best way ultimately, but it is not absolutely necessary to obtain the object in view. United States senators can be elected in Nebraska by the people just as effectually as the president is by the nation through the electoral college, or even a congressman as a result of a nominating convention.

The present constitution of the state of Nebraska provides that its citizens may vote for a United States senator, and that the proper officials shall count and announce the result of such ballot. Here is the whole gist of the matter, if the people will honestly and earnestly take hold of the same, and indicate their choice by their votes, either by their own motion independently or through a public nomination. These ballots are bound to be counted, and the legislature elected at the same time, as well as the state, would know which person or persons in each political party a majority of their party desired as United States senator. No legislature would dare to go back of this expressed will of the people, and the legislature would thus become the instrument merely to record legally the previously expressed wish of the people. Custom and habit would soon make this method as binding as the instructions of the people through their votes and the convention now are to the electoral college designating what names to send for president and vice president.


There was no presidential nominating convention originally held; the electors were supposed to choose for themselves when they assembled at Washington. The rapid growth and extension of the country made a presidential nominating convention necessary, and now the electoral college is simply a recording board of the wishes of the people. The constitution of the United States has not been altered or amended, nor has the college been abolished, though many think it should be.

In like manner any state with a similar constitutional provision—providing for the counting of the votes—can designate to their legislature their choice for senator, and it would not take but about one lesson of popular wrath to convince Mr. Legislator that he had better vote as the people directed.

The law has never been enforced in a formal way since its passage. A weak attempt in this line was made several years ago, in the case of Gen. Van Wyck, but it seemed entered into half-heartedly with a preconceived idea that it was futile. The people did not wake up to their rights and power in the matter. For some reason the great newspapers of the state, as they call themselves, while holding at times for the election of a United States senator by the people, have never presented the facts in the case as set forth in this view, nor showed them how to make their strength and power available.

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