

Plattsmouth Daily Herald.

FIFTH YEAR.

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, MARCH 4 1892

NUMBER 147

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THE voter of Dutchess county, N. Y., had their opportunity Tuesday to pass judgment on the democratic party's action in stealing the seat of Senator Deane and they did it by turning out the democratic supervisors and electing a republican in their place.

In a republican form of government it is difficult to get away from this highest court of the people. Dave Hill captured the New York legislature by stealing several seats which belonged to republicans. That theft has enabled him to take snap judgment on his own party and take a new and partisan census of the state, but in every country where he stole seats in the legislature and robbed the people of their reputation he has been rebuked by having his agents in the boards of supervisors defeated in the recent elections. It is a warning to Hill and the democratic party. They can not defeat the will of the people for long, and in the theft last fall Hill but exposed his hand and show that his political methods are those of men who have in the past been punished by imprisonment rather than rewarded with office.

NEW PROOFS OF THE BENEFITS THE MCKINLEY LAW.

A correspondent from Buffalo writes as follows of the effect of the McKinley law on one industry in that city:

I called this week at the Tift Iron Works, this city, where are manufactured engines, boilers, and machinery of various kinds on an extensive scale but almost exclusively for the home market.

Mr. Charles L. Whiting, who is the manager of the works, said that they were up to their eyes in business, running every department in full blast at the present time. In answer to the question as to what the effect of the recent tariff legislation has been on their business, he said there could be no doubt that it was on the whole very beneficial. Among the things that pointed that way were the present prosperous condition of business, including the bright outlook for the future, and the numerous inquiries for price list, etc., coming daily from foreign countries, South America in particular.

He thought that the increasing demand for their goods from South America was largely due to the reciprocity clause of the McKinley law, which gave us a great advantage in Southern hemisphere would soon be a vast and rich market for the products of the American factory.

Mr. Whiting further added: "That in his dealings and other observation in business he has heard no criticisms of the new tariff law either from friend or foe of protection, and business men generally who are opposed to protection on general principles would be opposed at this time to any to any revision of the tariff."

HOW OUR ROADS MAY BE IMPROVED.

I would have each state by a legislative enactment do at once two or three things in the direction of his movement, viz.: procure and disseminate information by establishing a bureau where the facts relating to the expense, mechanical construction, care, durability, use and extent of the different kinds of roads shall be known and ascertained; than I would have some kind of state supervision and advisory assistance by a competent engineer and engineers appointed by the state in aid of road and bridge building and repairing upon scientific principles and upon a comprehensive and economical plan for the whole state; thirdly, I would have the state either own or control and maintain some through high-

ways, connecting the principal towns in the state, and connecting these with the principal towns of neighboring states, where they are most needed, either for great public exigencies or for the great general use. The state would thus promote the equalization and the general reduction of expense of construction and maintenance of these main roads, and would give a profitably example and a strong incentive to the adjunct towns to construct better contributory roads as feeders to the main ones. I would have the state divide the expenses of this scheme of road betterment in the tax levy, so that part of it should be apportioned to the whole state, part to the counties through which the roads ran, and part to the towns. And, further, I would have this tax levy kept small and the investment adequate and quickly made by the business man's method of borrowing the money on long loans. It would thus be easily paid out of the profits by those shoring them.

MILITARY OFFICERS AS INDIAN AGENTS.

The action of the house in passing an amendment to the Indian appropriation bill providing that the president may detail officers of the army to act as Indian agents whenever vacancies occur is a move in the right direction. There can be no dispute about the need of improvement in the Indian service, and experience has proved that the substitution of soldier for civilians is calculated to produce such an effect. It would hardly be proper to say that army officers are always more honest and capable than any other men; but it may fairly be claimed that their training particularly fits them for the management of Indian agencies. They go about the work in a practical instead of a sentimental way, and all the details are carefully and systematically adjusted. Their methods tend to lessen causes of complaint, and to prevent outbreaks, and in that respect they are much preferable to the processes usually adopted by the Indian agents appointed from civil life. In more than one case the inefficiency of the latter has led to war. The government has been put to heavy expense from time to time by the blunders and rascalities of such officials, and fair dealing with the Indians would unquestionably be promoted by turning the business over entirely to the military authorities.

There is a point still in the case, and that is the fact that the Indians have a profound respect for military officers, and comparatively little or none at all for civil ones. This is simply saying that the Indian is so constituted that he scorns peaceful and persuasive ideas and appliances, and believe only in force. He can not be successfully governed except through his sense of personal fear. When he is coaxed and petted, he takes advantage of those who trust him, and despises them for what he interprets to be their weakness. But when he is confronted by a man in the uniform of the army, he realizes that he must conduct himself properly, or he will be punished. The army has the meaning to him of a power that can not be trifled with, and he submits to the authority of its officers without protest or resistance. This is well understood by those who are actually acquainted with the Indians, but it has never been recognized by those who have had policy. The theory of controlling and civilizing these peculiar people by mild and temporizing means is fundamentally and wholly wrong. It is only by a manifestation of force that the Indian nature can be affected in any positive and satisfactory degree. The officers of the army are just the men, therefore, to have charge of the work which has been poorly done in the past by civil officials. They will be respected and obeyed, and their influence will be on the side of peace at all times and in the interest of justice and honesty. The existing policy does not answer the purpose, and it should be changed as soon as possible, whatever the sentimentalists may say to the contrary.—Globe Democrat.

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MENTING THE MAIL POUCHES.

How Uncle Sam's Mail Bags Are Repaired—250,000 Locks Renewed.

Once in eight years all the locks on United States mail bags must be changed, if not oftener. This is because after a while a good many lost keys get around, and they are not very safe to have so distributed. Just now the Equipment Division of the Post-office Department is making over 250,000 old locks, merely for the purpose of rendering them different.

At first it was suggested, that all these 250,000 locks should be thrown away. The junk men were asked how much they would give for them and they said 20 cents a hundred pounds. This did not seem very large, inasmuch as the postoffice had originally paid 57 cents apiece for the locks. Therefore it was concluded to make them over again, and this is being done now at the repair shop on C street, at a cost of 6 3/4 cents per lock. It is a very pretty sight to see the workmen cut the old contrivances apart, polish them up on rapidly-revolving grindstones, which give out showers of sparks, reorganizing the tumblers, and putting together the pieces into as good shape as the new lamps which the magician in the story of Aladdin exchanged for old ones.

These locks, as has been said, are to secure mail bags, but even more interesting are mail bags themselves and their histories. Naturally, in the course of human events, these receptacles wear out now and then. This being regarded as inevitable, in former times they were turned over promptly to the junk men. Now, however, it is all very different. According to the regulations, as fast as the bags show symptoms of wearing out they are forwarded to Washington from all over the United States. Thus one finds in the equipment shop on C street great rooms heaped with enormous stacks of mail sacks in all stages of use, decay, and, one might almost say, of decomposition.

Upon arrival they are conveyed by a big elevator to the third floor, where 110 women sit sewing with coarse thread. The bags are made of jute. Some of the women wear dunce-caps of brown paper on their heads, and all are busy as so many bees. They are all sewing upon mail sacks, and whenever one has finished her task she holds up her hand. At once the foreman in charge goes to her, takes the bag she has finished, and lays it on a pile. In exchange, he gives her another, which he takes from a stack near by. The sacks in the latter pile are in all stages of delapidation, and the rule is that each worker must take the one that is on top. A wooden partition shuts off the women from sight of the pile, because some complained a while ago that it was possible for others to see when there were good sacks on top, and so escape bad ones. It is like the system of "takes" in a newspaper office.

Thus far only the jute bags have been spoken of. But there is another room in which the leather mail pouches are mended, twenty-two workmen being employed for the purpose. This system has grown up within the last four years. So short a time ago only eight women and three leather workers were employed to do the work. But it is believed that a great economy would result from devoting attention to the mending of old sacks, and this has proved so far true that many thousand fewer bags are made annually now than were required in 1887, although the postoffice business has increased one-quarter since then. The bags are manufactured in New York State.

When the mending of each bag is finished it is inspected by a man who is the only person in the United States with whom the decision lies as to when a mail sack is worn out and shall be used no longer. Condemned ones are all used in one fashion or another. The best parts of them are used for the bottoms of sacks that have to be repaired, while other portions serve for patches, the ragged bits being slashed off with sharp knives.—Washington Star.

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