

The Plattsmouth Journal

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JOHN PAUL JONES was not blown up with dynamite, despite the many places in which his remains are reported to be buried.

THE prospects of having their affairs ventilated in congress has brought a good many railway "magnates" to the verge of nervous prostration.

THE president may not have liked to see Chicago "go democratic," but he certainly cannot consistently begrudge success to a man who has thirteen children.

PERHAPS Mr. Rockefeller would have been in better business if he had contributed that \$100,000 to the negro and Indian missions after all. Charly begins at home.

A PHILADELPHIA teacher has given one of his pupils a medal for bringing a collection of insects to school. We did the same thing once when we were young. What followed is too painful to relate.

THE president has had to do some explaining with regard to his favorite term "a square deal," down in Texas. Down there they generally deal around beginning with the man on the left of the dealer.

THE republicans are mighty anxious to reform the tariff and lower those schedules which "foster monopoly," only they don't dare to. Where would the republican campaign funds come from if they did?

THE report that the shipbuilding trust is to be reorganized is another indication that reform has penetrated to corporations. Reform seems to be one of the results of consolidation and "community of interest."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has gone away to hunt big game. Judging by the Morocco incident, Emperor William went away to hunt trouble. It is far better for the plain people when a strenuous ruler, "blows off steam" in the mountains than in foreign capitals.

THE postage on a four pound package from Chicago to Indianapolis is 64 cents. On a four pound package to London it is 49 cents. For an explanation of the discrepancy apply to the president of the United States Express company, care the United States senate.

GOVERNOR MCKEY has called a special election for Tuesday, July 18, to elect a successor to Congressman Burkett, who was elevated to the United States senate by the late defunct legislature. The republican congressional committee will meet in Lincoln next Monday to fix a date for their nominating convention. When will the democratic committee meet?

LET the unionists of the First district nominate a good, clean candidate—one who will challenge the republican candidate for a joint debate of the issues before the people—and he can be made "look like thirty cents" before election day rolls around. Lincoln has already fixed the republican nomination, and all there is to do now is for the convention to ratify the same.

WITH a good, strong man pitted against the republican nominee for congress the people will stand a good show of winning out. We have the material and we have the issue upon which to go before the people. They are just now in a mood for a change all round. The action of the late "deceased" legislature has opened the eyes of the people and they are thinking—thinking hard.

THE squabbles should be ended by the late legislature for their projects now allowed to proceed without molestation. It is a pity that the squabbles have a blowout over the proposed extension of the legislative railroads. They are to receive any benefits from the twenty-ninth general assembly.

THE legislature passed a law, a law against the extension of the greatest importance, a law making pipe line carriers, and establishing a refinery to save the oil from annihilation at the hands of the state. These were the central issues in Nebraska the legislature killed the direct primary and every effort at rate reduction was nullified by the bill asked by irrigationists, killed the bulk scales bill, and other measures of public interest as rapidly as the lobby pulled strings. There is a mighty work in the spirit and work and results of the two legislatures.

Public Opinion.

Most of the members of the twenty-ninth Nebraska legislature have succeeded in reaching their homes, but their clothes smell of railroad transportation.—Friend Telegraph.

The Nebraska legislature is a thing of the past, but the names of the members will live for a long while in the minds of the people, at least until the next election, when a whole lot of them will be turned down good and plenty if they have the nerve to bob up as candidates again.—Shelton Clipper.

During the closing hours of the Nebraska legislature certain members took occasion to roast the newspapers of the state. The newspapers, however, have two years in which to review the acts of the members of the legislature and there is plenty of chance for just criticism.—Emerson Enterprise.

Pennypacker fashion the legislature did some tall ranting while in its death throes, against the press of the state for its pungent criticism of measures during the past session. It is true that they did come in for some rich roasts well done and well deserved. But what is to be made, except fun, of a body of men who will cite before them a candidate for the senate, force him to pledge himself to the support of President Roosevelt's policy of railway rate regulation and then fail to pass any effective rate legislation for their own state?—Madison Star-Mail.

The republican party of Nebraska will lose its grip upon the state elections unless it looks a little more to its interests than to place unqualified and incompetent office seekers upon its ticket for important offices by the rotten ring caucus system and then try to elect them in spite of well grounded protests of members of their own party. Last fall a nomination by that party was equivalent to an election, everything in the shape of a tool for a caucus ring boss that asked for it got a place on the ticket. The time is passing swiftly by when dead beat office seekers, devoid of truth, can be elected to office. The experience the voters of Nebraska have gained through the unsatisfactory conduct of the recent legislature will go a great way toward purifying politics. If a man is not fit for an office he should not be elected, and it makes no difference what party he belongs to, it don't help his party to elect him.—Beaver Crossing Independent-Examiner.

A paper up the country, in its kindness of heart, says that the legislature is entitled to more credit for the infamous bills that were killed, than for the good measures that were passed. Now, who introduced those infamous measures, for which the legislature is to receive credit for killing? Why should it be necessary to waste time and money, sending men to Lincoln to protect the people from the acts of the men whom they elect. Simply because the men who are elected are largely the tools of corporations. They are selected because they are willing to do the bidding of their masters. They introduce bills which are prepared and presented to them, such as the elevator trust bill, and bend their energies to pass measures, which if they become laws, would rob the farmer of one-half the product of his labor. It may be charity to give these men credit for doing no worse. The man who is held up on the highway and robbed of his coat, should feel thankful that the robber did not take his shirt also.

WHAT'S the use of talking about the party of Jefferson or of any other patriot who has been dead a long time? The progressive party of the present, a party of, for and by the living, is what the country wants, and so far the republican party comes nearer filling the bill than any other.—Lincoln Journal.

Bah! Isn't it more in keeping with the interests of the common people to advocate simon-pure Jeffersonian democracy, than it is to advocate Hamiltonian autocracy? Jefferson always favored free government, while Hamilton favored a centralization of power in the hands of the few. One is the democracy while the other is republicanism of today. If that preached by Jefferson is ancient so must that be preached by Hamilton. Both were in public life about the same time.

MR. BRYAN'S appeal for a pledge which appears in this issue, meets with the Journal's hearty approval. This is a step in the right direction and no man who believes in "a government of the people and by the people" should hesitate to sign the same. If every voter in Cass county will cut this pledge out, sign it and send it to the Journal, we will forward them to the Commoner in a bulk. Let's see how many will sign in Cass county. What say you?

CERTAIN physicians say that the vermiform appendix can be made useful by being readjusted. The physician still wants the people to believe that he is indispensable.

THE chairman of the democratic congressional committee should call them together as soon as possible.

Rings Throughout the Land.

Well, the Democracy of Chicago has sounded a bugle note, and unfurled an economic banner which will ring and wave throughout the country.

Nothing more important and nothing more significant than this Chicago election has stirred municipal and economic politics in the generation in which we live. It officially sets in motion a force which will clamor at the American ballot box until it has a definite and satisfactory answer.

The second city and the real metropolis of the greater part of the Republic has, by an overwhelming majority, committed itself to a trial of the mighty principle of municipal ownership. The incident is worthy of every vital interest and attention of every American who thinks and votes.

There was never an issue more clearly made. The selfish capitalists owning the franchises of the Chicago street railway system have for forty years abused the confidence and liberality of the people. Graft, greed and watered stock at enormous profits have swallowed up all consideration of public service and the corporations enjoying the public franchise have compelled the great city of Chicago to submit to the most execrable street railway service in American. The selfishness and greed of the corporations have been the instruments of their own undoing, and the outraged sense of the people thundered in the ballots of the 4th of April.

A majority of about 25,000 citizens emphatically declared: First, against granting any more franchises to the corporation, and, second, in favor of the immediate establishment by legal means of municipal ownership of the great street railway system of Chicago.

There has been much squirming by republican and corporation organs over the result, and some rather frenzied haste in proffering explanation of this remarkable vote outside of the great issue upon which it was cast. With due regard to these partisan protests, and with the trivial and inconsequential swept away, several great central facts loom definite and clear.

First—Chicago went republican in the last national election by nearly 116,000 majority.

Second—Carter Harrison, personally the most popular democrat that Chicago has known in twenty years, carried the last municipal election against a comparatively weak republican competitor by only 7,600 votes.

Third—That in this campaign the republican party had in John Maynard Harlan the most picturesque, popular and powerful municipal candidate that it has presented in this generation; and,

Fourth—That, in the face of these conditions the democratic party, after a thoroughly discussed and deliberate campaign, has just carried the city of Chicago distinctly and purely upon the issue of municipal ownership by a sweeping majority of 25,000 votes!

There can be but one explanation of this result under these conditions, and that is the people, speaking in their majesty and might of majorities, are determined to give the great principle of public ownership of utilities a free, fair and practical trial.

And the democracy of Chicago have scored a great and far-reaching triumph in making this issue and in carrying it to the honest test of experiment.

Now, if this experiment of municipal ownership is successful in this great city of Chicago—if, after intelligent application and a reasonable probation, it works well to the betterment of the public service, and to the comfort, convenience and economy of the people—it is simply a matter of common sense to see that the movement inaugurated by the Chicago democracy—and to be credited as a democratic movement—will sweep the country and solve the problem that involves both cities and states in scandal and injustice.

That this experiment will be successful no man of reasonable intelligence will permit himself to doubt. It has been splendidly successful in some of the greater cities of Europe where conditions are exactly similar. The principle is sound, practical and founded upon fundamental principles of popular government.

Public ownership removes the motive for misuse of public utilities, as when the motive goes the evil will go. As long as selfishness and greed get the chance to gratify themselves at the public expense just so long will they do it. And nowhere on earth has there ever been a strike when the principle of government ownership was in operation. Public ownership will do for the railroads what it does for the post office, the police department and the fire department.

The republican and corporate antagonists of this movement are already sounding the false alarm that it will cost Chicago \$100,000,000 to buy the Chicago street railways and \$50,000,000 to re-equip them. Judge Dunne put that statement to rest the morning after his election by showing that under the shrinkage in the quoted stocks, and under the necessity of buying only the tangible properties, the cost would not be more than \$30,000,000 for everything.

Moreover, it may be set down that Judge Dunne, the new democratic municipal ownership Mayor of Chicago is a man of iron will, great civic courage, balanced judgment and a long and ample experience in great affairs. He will summon to counsel and construction the great experts of Glasgow, Scotland, in which this great principle was born, and where for twenty years it has been in nobly successful operation, and he will consecrate to the experiment all the brains industry, purpose and determination of a man who feels that he is living and acting for the leading and enlightenment and benefit of millions of his fellow countrymen, living or yet unborn. He lives in an age of great achievement among a people of world-famous and restless energy, and his friends and the thousands of his followers do not permit themselves to doubt for a moment that municipal ownership of public utilities will be as conspicuous and beneficent a success in Chicago as it has long been in the world's model city of Glasgow.

The people—the great body of the people—are to be congratulated upon the inauguration of an experiment in which their interests are so vital, and they are invited now to see it succeed and to help it to national application along wise, firm and yet definite lines.

The people's case has received a mighty and an irresistible impetus from the democracy of Chicago.

One other thing in this momentous campaign is significant and worthy of note as an index to the spirit and temper of the people toward the economic problems of the time.

Scared into comprehension by the clear presentation of democratic publicists and by the resolute attitude of the people toward the issue, and stung by the insolent indifference of the street car magnates, the republicans of Chicago, eager for success and pandering to the popular wave, were forced to adopt some sort of platform favorable to the municipal reform.

But they did it so half-heartedly, so uncertainly, so unsatisfactorily, and with such evident insincerity, that the voters of Chicago laughed them to scorn. They were not going to take any chances with any half hearted advocacy of the principle in which they had come to believe. They were not going to trust the execution of a vital reform to milk-and-water enthusiasts or to timid conservatives who were likely to kill it with temporizing and delay. They took the party that was definite and positive. They followed the organization that knew what it wanted and promised to go right after it.

John Maynard Harlan and his republican organization were for municipal ownership day after tomorrow or next week.

Edward F. Dunne and the Chicago democracy were for municipal ownership tomorrow!

And the people followed the definite rather than the indefinite, the certain rather than the hesitating.

And so will the people always follow definite men and certain policies in preference to shifting leaders and ambiguous platforms.

If democracy means to win and wants to in 1908 it must be clear as the day this time in the ringing enunciation of its creeds, and as definite as honesty in the presentation of its candidates.

Clear principles, short sentences and a leader whose views are known of all men is the demand of the people.

I have been preaching incessantly in these letters the necessity for individual thought and activity by individual democrats, as the supreme necessity for every democrat to attend every mass meeting and primary and to make known their without hesitation by voice and by ballot his views of the issues on which the party must go to the country.

I notice that in the last Commoner Mr. Bryan has adopted this idea and is preaching the gospel of activity in the primaries. In my next letter I will have something to say in the discussion of the plan which he proposes.

The people must make the next platform and choose the next candidates.

JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES.

Don't Take 'Em Off.

A word, O fellow citizen,
Don't take 'em off!
The storm king may return again—
Don't take 'em off!
The morning may be glad and bright,
And tho' it seems that spring is in sight
You can't tell what may come tonight,
Don't take 'em off!
Perhaps they scratch, stick and burn—
Don't take 'em off!
Too late is not the time to learn—
Don't take 'em off!
The buds will soon begin to sprout,
The lambs are long will frisk about,
But don't you care—you just look out—
Don't take 'em off!
The horse is not a lovely thing—
Don't take 'em off!
It's sad to have to die in spring—
Don't take 'em off!
What if the crocus wants to poke
Itself up through the sod and croak?
A word to you, and it's no joke—
Don't take 'em off!

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