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WHAT HIT KEARNEY?

It now behoves those who have been most active in changing the conditions of this city to get busy without further delay and make provisions for taking care of our city schools. While we believe it was a grave mistake for the republican legislature twenty-five years ago to have made our public schools dependent in any way upon saloon license money for any manner of maintenance, it has been done, and the absence now of \$5,000 from the school treasury in this city must be provided for. It is illogical for men to set out to alter and change the order of any public conditions without providing means that are equally as good, or better. These conditions have now been changed, and those who have brought about these changes must not shirk their responsibility, but come forward at once with a system by which our public schools are in no manner to be crippled and endangered. The new conditions must be met and mastered.—Kearney Democrat.

THE WHEAT MARKET.

Most likely neither the Pittsburg banker nor James A. Patton is entirely right, the one ascribing to the other the high price of wheat and the other denying that he has anything to do with it. Mr. Patten says that he merely foresaw the famine, and, Joseph-like, laid aside ten million bushels for the time of need.

It happens that somebody, and "somebody" in the grain market always seems to mean Patten, has been holding about 20,000,000 bushels of wheat off the market. This, in the present scarcity, has had something to do with the high prices, though not all or nearly all. The conditions, as a world well gifted in hind sight really sees now, have for two or three years favored high wheat prices at this time.

Since 1906 the world's wheat crop has not been average. The average yield of 3,380,000,000 bushels in 1905 and 1906 dropped to 3,157,000,000 bushels in the next two years. Meanwhile consumption was undiminished, with the result that the world's stock of wheat in the beginning of the present month was 7,000,000 below that of last April, which in turn had been below that of the two years before. Then add the fact that the recent government estimate of the 1909 crop showed the poorest condition of winter wheat found at this season in the last five years, and a combination of circumstances found which could not help making dear bread.

It is hard on the wage workers at a time when the already have trouble enough. The farmers may seem to gain at first in high prices what they have lost in small crops, but even they would be better off with larger crops even though they made a little less money. This for the reason that the misfortune of their customers must eventually react upon themselves.

WHAT A WIDE-AWAKE STATE LEGISLATURE CAN DO.

From the Chicago Record-Herald (Rep.).

While the Illinois legislature has been accomplishing next to nothing, the Nebraska legislature, which has just adjourned, has been hard at work. It has enacted many measures which show a strong progressive spirit, and a number of its laws will be watched with interest by other states to see what their success will be.

Among the measures concerning political machinery is one for a wide-open primary, by which all parties will hold their primaries on the same day and a voter will be given a ballot with all the party tickets upon it, so he can vote for whatever list he pleases. Another law takes judges, regents of the state university and the county and state superintendents of schools entirely off the party tickets, providing that they shall be nominated by petition and voted for on election day, with no party designation connected with their names. The Oregon plan for the election of United States Senators was adopted, and a law was passed requiring the publication of campaign contributions fifteen days prior to election day.

The bank deposit guarantee law attracted as much attention as any other. It can be said for it at least that it was passed in a careful and conservative form. Whether such a system can be successful or not, the Nebraska legislature has done its best to give it a trial under good conditions.

Although the former governor was defeated by the present governor partly on a liquor issue, the brewers' influence being for the new man, a bill has been passed and signed establishing daylight saloons all over the state, the open hours being from 7 in the morning to 8 in the evening.

A number of acts strengthening the pure food law were passed, one of them bringing plants under the law and requiring the labels to describe accurately the constituents. There is a fourth of July law forbidding the use or sale of giant fire-crackers or dynamite caps in the state; another law putting stock issues under the control of the state railway commission and forbidding watered stock; a law establishing a state school of citizenship with the state university, a law prohibiting high school fraternities, and a law making decrees of divorce effective only after one year.

One need not say that these laws are all good, or even that if they are good for Nebraska they would be good elsewhere, to recognize that they form a husky, vigorous brood. If Mr. Bryan is to be tested by the work of this strongly democratic legislature under his influence he need not be ashamed of the judgment that will be passed upon him.

THE RETIRED FARMER OFTEN MAKES GRAVE MISTAKES.

Under this head the Journal of Agriculture says: A great many farmers, when they have attained success and begin to grow a little old, quit farming and move to town, or give the running of a farm to a son or some other man.

No man in any business attains to his highest efficiency until he has passed his fiftieth year mark.

Up to this time of life it is all experience and after fifty he is ready to do something that will count.

Abandoning work is not good for any man.

Activity means life, growth and the full enjoyment of the things about us.

Just as soon as a person sits down he begins to go down hill and there is no valid reason, except through some severe accident, why any man should go back in life.

It ought to be and can be an upward and ever broadening

road from birth to death.

The man at 50 years of age has just arrived at a place where he can really begin to see and enjoy the big things of life.

His eyes are opened and they are supported by a mind that knows and appreciates.

Let the man who is able to retire begin to do something worth while.

A farmer of advanced years and means could do more for himself by building an ideal home on the farm.

Here he would be truly at home.

With his surplus means and ripe knowledge of management he could build up a model farm that would be remunerative to himself, instructive to younger farmers and a satisfaction in his old age that no city or town dwelling could give.

Here his faculties would be active in natural channels, and he would have enough exercise in looking after work and operations to keep him in good normal health.

With all things running at a clipping pace under his management, there would be enough excitement on the farm for good, healthy diversion.

He would be able to move about and enjoy new and refreshing scenes behind a good team, or in the modern carriage drawn without horses—and still be in his own refreshing country atmosphere.

The farmer who retires and moves to town after he has attained success through years of experience is making a grave mistake and setting a bad example.

He is deserting the battle field just as the victory is possible and the gates of the promised land have been opened for entrance thereto.

No man can be a prohibitionist and remain a democrat. No man is, or can be, a democrat or any part of a democrat, who advocates sumptuary legislation and the confiscation of property without due process of law. When a neighborhood in the country, or a precinct in a city wants to choose a saloon, either can do it or has a perfect right to do it. That is local option. No democrat disputes it. Per contra, prohibition proposes to confiscate millions of property and extinguish millions of taxes to substitute for the lawful sale of drink the unlawful sale of poison. The distance is a great as the distance between heaven and hell.—Louisville-Courier-Journal.

TRADE AT HOME.

Under the above heading the Metcalf (Ill.) Journal prints the following editorial appeal. It would be a good item for other papers to copy:

Just about now the mail order houses of our large cities, with an eye for the spring trade of the smaller cities or towns and of the farmer, and sending out bulky and illusive catalogs by the thousand. Experience proves that, taking all things into account, to buy of such houses costs more and brings less satisfaction than to buy of the home merchants. Money sent out of town to these houses for what can be bought at home is just so much check to the growth and prosperity of the home town, and of the farmers and others who find in the town a ready market for their eggs, butter and other produce.

THE NEW DIVORCE LAW.

One of the excellent measures passed by the legislature, largely through the influence of Senator Miller, aims at correcting an evil of long standing. Under the old laws anybody who couldn't get a divorce at home could stop for six months in Nebraska and under circumstances that practically amounted to secrecy secure the coveted decree. Under the new law two years' residence is required, where the cause of action arose without the state, and two years will put a stop to the quick trip divorce business. In addition three months' effort in locating the defendant for personal service is required.

Another evil was that under the old law a man or woman could be divorced here in the morning, and with a newly elected mate could take a train to Council Bluffs and be married again the same day. The old law sought in a blundering sort of way to hold a club over the divorcee by a provision that the other party had six months in which to appeal. In 999 cases out of a thousand the other party was glad to be rid of the spouse, and but rarely was this provision invoked to make trouble for the one who hurriedly married again.

The new law provides that a divorce shall not issue until six months after the case has been heard. If a man or woman marry within that time they have contracted a void marriage, whereas under the old law it was simply a voidable marriage. Women will hesitate to listen to the whisper of the other man to run off somewhere else and marry when they know that they are not contracting a lawful marriage, a union which the other can sever at will without fear of the wife desertion law or the command to furnish alimony.—Lincoln News (Rep.).

FORSAKING "MY POLICIES."

Truth is oak; the false is alder and breaks under you. It is, therefore, well to know the truth.

Mr. Taft has been captured and carried into captivity by Mr. Roosevelt's enemies. Or, if not that, then he has voluntarily enrolled himself upon their side.

Col. Cooper, now on trial in Nashville, once told how on the evening before General Forrest's first clash with the Yankees he called upon that chieftain to inquire out his plans.

"Have you formed a scheme of battle, General?" asked Colonel Cooper, "or laid out any course you mean to pursue?" "Well, no," returned General Forrest, "I ain't made no plan in particular. I sort o' allowed we'd tackle 'em, and if we can't lick 'em we'd jine 'em."

The Forrest tragedy finds its mate apparently in the White House strategy of Mr. Taft. The Roosevelt foes were—and are—a formidable litter. Despair came in advance of an engagement, and, confessing defeat without a skirmish, Mr. Taft has gone over to them, horse, boat and guns. Also, I do say that Mr. Taft in so doing has shown himself to be either right or wrong, black or white, crooked or straight, true or false. I only register a fact that today is as obvious as the capitol dome to every eye in Washington. And all upon the principle announced in the beginning that no one is safe who does not know the truth.

Mr. Cannon has been for years a Roosevelt ill-wisher, sleepless, inveterate, opposing the Roosevelt policies by every open or covert method in his power. His scorn for Mr. Roosevelt was ever upon his lip. He never mentioned the Roosevelt name without linking it with epithet.

And now, when Mr. Cannon, because of his tyrannies and house despotism, stands in peril of defeat for the speakership, when the criminal rules by which he has held the house in chains and robbed it of the purpose of its creation, it is Mr. Taft—with all the power of his new presidency, who comes to the Cannon rescue and declares for those rules' support.

Mr. Root and Mr. Knox manhandled Mr. Taft into this po-

sition. Mr. Taft is without congressional experience. He knows little or less of how things are done in the house. His whole thought is centered upon a tariff bill and its passage.

Mr. Root and Mr. Knox told him that his one chance of tariff depended on the good of things-as-they-were. With the old rules, with Mr. Cannon speaker, he (Mr. Taft) should have his tariff, and have it at once. Without the rules and Mr. Cannon he should gain nothing but defeat and tariff disappointment.

To be sure nothing of either sort was true. But Mr. Taft in his splendid lack of experience, did not know that and believingly gulped down the Knox-Root assurances like spring water. And so he has come out for the gag rules and stood forth as the champion of Mr. Cannon.

It is, if not a good, at least a luminous beginning. Even the half trained eye may, by the light of it, see that the administration has already forsaken those paths of policy which the Roosevelt feet had worn.

For one, while I'm not pleased, I'm not surprised. When Mr. Taft promised to follow out the Roosevelt policies and think and say and do what Mr. Roosevelt had thought and said and done, folks with knowledge of men knew that but promised the impossible.—Alfred Henry Lewis in Chicago Examiner.

One of the most beautiful tributes to the bird world is the following from the Technical World Magazine:

High above the marshy wastes which border the Klamath Lakes, in Southern Oregon, a lone white heron winged its desolate flight a month ago, the sole survivor of a once numerous family.

On broad pinions the survivor of a former legion floated in the east and then to the west, the farseeing eye searching vainly each stretch of lake, land of sedgy waste for a familiar patch of white which would betoken the presence of father, mother, mate, chick or friend, but he saw none for President Roosevelt had been too late in setting aside the Klamath district as a national bird reserve, and the delay had sealed the fate of the heron family.

But one is left according to the officials of the United States land office and the national association of audubon societies—just one white sample remaining of myriad thousands of one of the most beautiful of all native birds—the decree of fashion having brought about such a butchery that biological historians will in future works record the fact that in A. D. 1908 the white heron followed the great auk over the dismal trail that stretches backward to the ages that are gone.

THE OUTROOD SEASON.

The outdoor season is here. To thousands—hundreds of thousands—it means golf. To multitudes of others it means autoing, motor boating, fishing hunting, tennis, camping, gardening, rambling in the woods and fields. To all these it means pure air and sunlight. To the majority of the devotees of outdoor sports it means redder blood, stronger muscles, clearer brains, stronger hearts and generally better health and a lengthening of the lease of life.—Columbia (S. C.) State.

GUESS OUR FRIEND T. R. IS A PAST TRACTION, TOO.

Attorney General Wickersham, late of Wall street, has told the beef trust that he does not want to see them prosecuted for secret railroad rebating because there is no proof of criminal INTENT on their part.

The fact that the "Big Four" Chicago beef companies have already been convicted of a similar offense does not imply guilty knowledge this time.

The fact that the beef trusts high priced lawyers made that very defense of "lack of intent" and carried it to the United States supreme court does not imply any knowledge as to the second offense.

The legal axiom that even in first offenses "ignorance of the law excuses no man" is well enough for pickpockets, but not for members of Chicago's millionaire society set.

"Anyhow," says Wickersham, no public service would be rendered by making a TEST CASE of PAST transactions."

Bless his heart, he couldn't make a test case if he wanted to. These same people have been pinched for the same thing, tried, convicted, appealed up and up to the United States supreme court, found guilty in deed and in intent, and fined and the fine paid. What for? For beating the public by means of rebates.

No, indeed, there can be no test case at this time.

...

Let's see how this rule would work in police court:

Prosecutor—So you beat your wife while you were drunk today, did you?

Prisoner—Yes, sir, but I didn't mean to hurt her, and besides, I didn't know it was against the law.

Prosecutor—Oh, so you did not intend to break the law?

Prisoner—Certainly not.

Officer—But he was arrested last week for the same offense and gave the judge the same talk, and it didn't go, and he was fined—for the same thing.

Prosecutor—But he says he didn't intend to break the law. I think no public service would be rendered by making a test of this case.

Prisoner—Thank you kindly. I'm going right home and tell my wife. I know she'll be pleased.

...

"And," says Wickersham, "It's no use fussing about past transactions." Sure! If the beef trust has had rebates and has the money in the bank, what's the use of fussing? The public has been "frisked" by rebates, but it's a past transaction.

...

Let's see how that would work in police court:

Judge—you are charged with pocketpicking.

Prisoner—Yes, sir, but it was all done when the cop pinched me.

Judge—Where is the purse you took?

Prisoner—in my own pocket.

Judge—Well, then, that's an end of it. This transaction is closed. Officer you may drop in and tell the man who used to own this purse to be more careful in the future. We do not punish past transactions in his court, and here are a few rules for you to follow:

Don't arrest a man for drunkenness when he is drunk; arrest him while he is sober, so the jag won't be a past transaction.

"Don't arrest anybody who has done anything, for things that have been done are past transactions. We must only punish for crimes that have not been committed or are not quite finished. I trust I make myself clear?"

Officer—The trust is clear, your honor. I confine my arrests to teething babies in the future, sir.

...

And thus are the policies of T. R. "carried out." Not just as T. R. would do it perhaps. "Not with such flamboyant beating of tom-toms," as we are told.—Omaha News.