

The Nebraska Independent.

The Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

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NO. 39.

OUR NEXT PRESIDENT

Electoral Vote is Canvassed and McKinley and Hobart are Declared Elected.

WHAT THE COUNT DISCLOSED.

Electors for McKinley 271, Bryan 176, Hobart 271, Sewall 149, Watson 27.

William and Garrett.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The first public exercises connected with the incoming administration occurred today, when both houses of congress in joint session in the hall of the house of representatives, counted the electoral votes of the various states and listened to Vice President Stevenson formally promulgate the election of William McKinley as president and Garrett A. Hobart as vice president of the United States. The spectators constituted a most distinguished assemblage. The galleries were packed to the doors and many ladies were present in gay toilet.

Exactly at noon Speaker Reed called the house to order. At 12:50 the house took a five minute recess. Shortly before 1 o'clock the members of the senate left their chamber and walked across to the hall of the representatives. Vice-President Stevenson took his place beside Speaker Reed and assumed the duties of presiding officer. Senators Lodge and Blackburn and Representatives Grosvenor and Richardson a committee for that purpose, ascended the clerk's desk and prepared to count the votes. The vice-president unlocked the box and broke the seal of the returns from each state as it was reached and the tellers, after ascertaining that the certificates were in due form, announced the results.

South Carolina's vote was counted without interruption. Representative Murray, who had talk of challenging the vote made no attempt to do so. At 1:40 p. m., the vice-president stated that the count was closed and directed the tellers to announce the result. There was a hasty consultation by the tellers, then in a strong voice, Lodge announced the result as follows:

For president, McKinley, 271; Bryan, 176; for vice-president, Hobart 271; Sewall, 149; Watson 27.

Lodge handed the result to the vice-president, who repeated the detailed vote adding the constitutional announcement that William McKinley and Garrett A. Hobart were elected president and vice-president, respectively, for the term beginning March 4. This closed the proceedings, which lasted just fifty minutes and were devoid of incident or applause. The senators marched back to the chamber, and the house adjourned.

Spanish Blood-Letting.

TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 10.—News has been received by steamer that left the Philippine islands January 6 to the effect that on the 2d the Spanish troops in a serious engagement with the rebels killed eleven hundred, including the greater part of the active soldiers who deserted the Spanish cause. The Spanish loss was twenty-four killed and sixty-eight wounded. On the 4th, in another engagement, thirty-two dead rebels were counted. The Spanish loss was ten killed and eighteen wounded.

Another Protest.

The farmers and taxpayers of Nebraska should speak out, as did the correspondent from Central City, against the present legislature putting a heavier load of debt on an already overburdened and taxridden people, by voting any appropriation whatever to the Omaha Exposition.

The state is now so deeply in debt it will take years of prosperity (if perchance we should be blessed with them) to pay out. The counties are in debt. The cities and villages are in debt, and last but not least, the people in their private business are in debt, with their homes mortgaged, many of them unable even to pay the interest on the principal, under the present gold standard prices.

Under this condition of affairs, and with the assurance from the present members of the legislature that they, if elected, would not vote to sink the state still deeper in debt, the people of Nebraska took them at their word and elected them.

The people, by whose suffrage they were elected, believe that it is unjust to tax a part of the people to enrich and build up the business interests of others (even if it were prosperous times). On this ground, they were elected with the understanding that they would repeal the sugar bounty law, a law which taxes the people of the whole state for the benefit of certain localities and classes and this, to their credit, they have repealed.

It is safe to say that ninety per cent of the people of Nebraska would not re-

ceive one iota of benefit, either financially or otherwise from the Omaha Exposition, although they would have to pay their share of the appropriation. Can not the sugar bounty supporters truthfully bring the charge of insincerity or partiality against the supporters of an Omaha Exposition appropriation who voted against the sugar bounty? The writer knows that it is claimed by the supporters of an appropriation that "the bread cast upon the waters will return after many days" and help the whole state, but even if it were so, we need the bread now. But the writer does not believe it will return. The readers will remember that the same argument was brought out in support of appropriations from state and nation for the World's Fair. What have the people received in return for the national and state appropriations? Can any one point out even one benefit received by the people as a whole to reward them for their extra burden of taxes? Did it not even work an injury to the people outside of Chicago and vicinity? It looks to the writer more like, "if we sow to the wind we will reap the whirlwind."

Let the present legislature remember what they were sent to Lincoln for, and that their constituents are watching their every act, and let them beware of falling into the habits and practices of their republican predecessors, of extravagance in office and voting unnecessary appropriations and running the state still deeper in debt, but let them speedily pass those needed laws for which they were sent there, voting no appropriations but those absolutely necessary, and then adjourn; that their light may so shine before men that they may see their good works and return them again in due season.

The people are making a big black mark in their note books after the name of any member of the legislature who votes for any unnecessary expenditures during the present distressing times. Some may in their thoughtlessness forget the people, but if they do, the people will not forget them.

O. E. HARRIS.

The Wheeler county Independent has absorbed its republican contemporary, the Wheeler County News. It is published by Chester J. Brown at Bartlett, Nebraska, and is one of the leading county papers of the state. This is a plain case of the survival of the fittest. Success to the Independent.

"Middle of the Roaders."

The editor of the Beatrice Tribune sizes up these so-called "middle of the roaders" correctly and pertinently asks: "who are they?" and in his own incisive way answers the question. "In this state a political corruptionist, who poses as president of the Reform Press association—man who has no standing in the councils of the populist party in his own district—a man, by the way, who has been virtually drummed out from the party on account of his treachery, rottenness and perfidy;—Paul Van der Voort, who professed to be a populist but fights in the interest of the Philistines. This jealous man evidently supposes that all the populist wisdom of Nebraska is embodied in his egotistical self. Another is Matthews, late editor of the Nonconformist, who prostituted his paper to the service of Mark Hanna for the consideration of \$125 per week during the late campaign. Dunning, who formerly edited the National Watchman, and failing to get any funds from the populist congressmen and senators, opened his battery on them and during the campaign was the hired tool of corruptionists and boodlers and doing all he could for the success of the gold ticket. Such are the men who have been embraced as true blue reformers by many of our southern brethren. But we may be pardoned for suggesting that no reform organization will ever prosper when manipulated by such political prostitutes. Bad, unprincipled men are no good anywhere.—Wahoo New Era.

The attention of our readers is called to the advertisement in this issue on last page, of Crete Nurseries, managed for twenty-five years by E. F. Stephens, president of the Nebraska State Horticultural society. Their stock is carefully grown and particularly well rooted. Care is taken to send all trees to name and in the best possible condition to grow.

Too Frigid for LL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 10.—Ex-Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii, who has been confined to her room with influenza for several days, has suffered a relapse. Physicians say she will not be able to remain in this climate during the winter.

Official Call.

AURORA, NEB., Feb. 8, '97.

To the Nebraska Independent Press association:

A meeting of the Nebraska Independent Press association is hereby called to meet at the Palmer House, Grand Island, Feb. 15, 1897, at 7 o'clock p. m.

The purpose of this meeting is to take such steps as may be necessary to send delegates to the National Reform Press association and to consider important business matters which means dollars and cents in every day workings in the populist papers of Nebraska.

We would urge all editors of People's Independent Party papers as a matter of business as well as a matter of politics and pleasure to be on the ground at an early hour the day named.

We would also earnestly request that you write a few letters to your intimate newspaper co-laborers and press upon them the importance of attending this meeting.

Fraternally,
GEO. L. BURN, President.
D. R. CARPENTER, Secretary.

When bilious or costive, eat a Cascaret candy cathartic, cure guaranteed, 10c 25c

HARDY'S COLUMN.

City Charters, Good and Bad Railroads and Stock Yards.

There seems to be some kicking in the lobby against the reduction of salaries which our legislature is trying to accomplish. A horizontal cut may be an injustice to some, but there has been a horizontal cut in prices of property, products and labor. When everything else is down half, why should not taxes go down? Of course the interest on our indebtedness stands the same, but our every-day expenses can and should be cut.

The constitution fixes the salaries of the seven state officers and the supreme and district judges, but the salaries of those men are not the highest. Some of the district court clerks get five or six times as much as the governor. Some years, in some cases their salaries mounted up to fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. Then, the superintendents of our asylums, reform schools, and penitentiary warden, all get much higher salaries than the state officers. They not only receive their salaries, but they and their families are housed, fed and warmed in the best of style. They have horses, carriages and drivers at their command, to come and go and receive company. They also have stewards, bookkeepers and waiters.

Still another exception should be made to a horizontal cut, and that is the women employed by the state. As a rule they receive about one-third the salary of the men for doing the same work. The superintendent of the Milford home for women is an exception.

The legislature has indefinitely postponed several worthy bills that ought to have been passed. Three of them were for more severe punishment for the theft of chickens, hogs and bicycles. Today a man may steal a five-dollar horse and be sent to the penitentiary five years for it, but he may steal thirty dollars worth of chickens, hogs or bicycles and can only be sent to jail a few days or fined a few dollars. People do not count their chickens or hogs the first thing in the morning, and it may be a week before the theft is discovered. Not so when a horse is stolen. Then a horse is more easily identified. They are not killed and dressed as chickens or hogs are. Hogs yield a good profit in Nebraska and should have the strongest arm of the law protecting them. And certainly poultry should be protected, for it yields double the profit of the hog. The hen feeds half of the time on actual pests—grasshoppers, bugs and worms.

Then there have been several bills indefinitely postponed, which action was right and proper. The state as well as individuals must take in financial sale before a storm. There are many things we would like to do if we had the money. Additional buildings for the use of our university, normal schools, reform schools, soldier's homes and asylums would all be very nice, but the condition of our treasury demands that we wait at least two years. Upon a pinch we can stand a \$50,000 debt for a display at the Omaha exposition, but that should be the extreme limit. A system of circulating libraries would be a grand thing, but we have not got the money now. It is not best to run in debt for a Lincoln statue, rain tests, railroad schemes or immigrant agency.

The amendment count and judge seating bill was carried, 71 to 26, in the house, but it has been hung up by several amendments in the senate. Whether it will go through in time and in form to do any good is a question. It is thought to seat two more supreme judges, both populists. That fact alone would not worry the republicans as long as they had three, but they expect the pops will carry the state next fall and then the pops will have a majority of the court. There is where the shoe pinches.

The Union Pacific railroad has got an earnest hard working attorney in Senator Thurston. He works as he should hardest for the party that pays him the highest price. As long as the railroad company pays him ten thousand dollars a year he ought to work just as hard as he has been working and then put in his old time for Uncle Sam for the small pittance he pays.

Any member of this legislature who votes against limiting the charges at the South Omaha stock yard deserves to be kicked by John Thurston or some other corporation lawyer. Other markets are ruled by law, mixed with a little justice and why not try it on South Omaha?

There are two flag bills before the legislature: One to make it unlawful to print letters or faces or in any way to disgrace the old flag. The other to compel every school district to tax itself and buy a flag of certain size and staff of certain length and raise the flag over the school house. The whole cost would be eight or ten dollars and would need to be renewed once or twice a year to keep it looking decent. So far as we are concerned we take no pride in seeing the stars and stripes floating over a saloon or over any institution supported by saloon money. We need things worse than flags just now. A voluntary raising of a liberty pole and flag on the Fourth of July will breed more patriotism than flag taxes.

One by one the gold standard roses fall. Banks, manufacturing and business firms continue to fail, and the banks that do stand up, instead of handing out dividends are forced to make assessment after assessment on the stock holders. Property of almost every kind continues to decline or what is absolutely true the gold dollar continues to raise in value. Mexico has such trouble. Her labor and property stand just about as they have ever since the republic was started. Money bears just about the same relation to prop-

erty. Debts and taxes can be paid just as easily. Her money will buy as much outside, excepting her gold, and that will buy twice as much. The double demand for gold has doubled its value. Russia has just reduced the amount of gold in her roubles so as to make them equal to the paper and silver rouble. What next?

HARDY IS FOR IT.

He Believes in the Commissioner System of City Government.

"There is bound to be a hard scrap over the Lincoln charter," says ex-Mayor Hardy. "Whether we shall be governed in part by commissioners appointed by the governor or stick to our present corrupt and corrupting system is the question, Omaha and most of the larger cities of the country have been forced to accept the commissioner system. The corrupt classes of Omaha are fighting the system, while the better classes are leading for it. In Lincoln every corrupt, vicious and immoral person is bound to defeat the charter before the legislature if possible. The boodlers and leg-pullers are the fiercest enemies the system has."

"We feel like humiliating ourselves in sack cloth and ashes when we realize that the city of Lincoln is not capable of self government, that is, not in a manner as such a city should be governed. The corrupt, vicious and criminal classes seem to wad up in cities as they do not in the country districts. Then these classes have no party politics; they attach themselves to the dominating party. If the city is republican, they are republican; if democratic, then they are democrats. In the country not more than one in ten belongs to these classes, while in cities not less than four in ten and these four-tenths are always together; as one votes, so they all vote. They secure all the party nominations they can. Then there are always good people, church members enough standing ready to vote their own party ticket, yellow dog and all, to carry the election."

"Two years ago it was advertised that if we elected the republican ticket we would get a wide open administration, and that ticket was elected by the largest majority for years. The professional boodlers constituted the tail end of the kite. Not less than \$20,000 of boodle sweetened one single contract, that of lighting our streets. We have been plunged into debt and our taxes increased until much of our city property cannot be sold for the taxes. Lap-over after lap-over has followed as often as the years roll around. It would make the governing politicians sick if expenses were kept within the levy."

"It has been objected that the new charter removed the option of license or prohibition one step further from the people. But our option could be made to count in the election of our city council. They could pass an ordinance for or against license."

Nebraska Threatens Us.

The anarchists, renunciationists, bomb throwers and bewiskered hayseeds who compose Nebraska's populist legislature have designs on Chicago.

They threaten us.

Having read in the public prints of the general distress here which local capital is alleviating only in part, these conspirators have concluded that now is a good time for attack. Their generalship to say the least, is commendable, and stamps them as strategists of the first order. Last summer we might have been able to resist, for so many good citizens were suspecting that the Gotha and vandals of the prairies were about to march on us that we were prepared.

Now we are merely cold and hungry. The chief conspirator seems to be one Senator Canaday of Kearney county, who yesterday introduced a joint and concurrent resolution in the state legislature calling upon the people of Nebraska to load with expedition and hurry to Chicago with dispatch a trainload of provisions.

Gentle and confiding reader this trainload of provisions is not to be a commissariat for the sustenance of an invading army, as you might suspect.

It is intended for ourselves—for our poor—and as we understand it, it is not to be tied at either end with red tape.

The resolution provides that the provisions be consigned to the custody of "the patriot and friend of the people—John P. Altgeld." It asks the railroads to transport the contributions, and in the preamble sets out that the existing condition of distress has been brought about by operations of the infamous financial policy inaugurated in this country by fraud and treachery, and perpetrated through fraud, treachery, bribery, intimidation and misrepresentation. The resolution is expected to meet with ready response, as many farmers are unable to dispose of their enormous corn supply. Many are burning great stacks of it for fuel, while others are leaving it in the field, being unable find cover for so great a yield.

Why this paradox?

Because an appreciated dollar and fixed railroad tariffs forbid the farmer to seek a market. Having no market, he has no cash, and cannot therefore buy the products that steadily employed city folk would send him. He keeps his corn, burning it or letting it rot in the field. The urban artisan is thrown out of work and famine in the midst of plenty results.

Meantime, however, let us doff our hats to the noble sons of Nebraska. They're all right.—Chicago Dispatch.

Long Will Be In It.

CANTON, Feb. 10.—It may be stated that McKinley has determined on Ex-Governor Long of Massachusetts, for a portfolio, probably the navy. It is believed that there is no doubt he will accept.

The Omaha Exposition.

It looks to the writer very much as though the state has an elephant on its hands in the matter of the proposed exposition. The state, through its representatives in congress has asked and obtained aid from the general government in support of the proposed show and is therefore before, in a degree at least, to give both its countenance and material aid in support of the exposition. But the whole thing at this time seems far, far less defensible than New York's Bradley-Martin ball. The New York show will result in a considerable sum of money being expended by a limited number of presumably rich people and distributed among a comparatively large number of shop-keepers and working people, while an appropriation for the Omaha hippodrome will take from the many for the benefit of a few. I think the whole scheme is untimely and ill-advised and the state would do well to let it drop with any kind of a thud were it in a position to do so honorably.

As we are in a measure already obliged in the matter, how much, under the circumstances, should the state appropriate?

It would be extremely gratifying to state pride, very pleasing to every real citizen of the state as citizens, to make a handsome gift to the enterprise in the shape of an appropriation of a half million dollars or more.

But gratified state pride and pleasure to individual citizens will not pay the half million dollars. For that a majority of our citizens must look to the proceeds from sales of six to ten cent corn and oats, forty-cent wheat and two and one-half cent pork.

Under such circumstances I feel that an appropriation exceeding \$100,000 ought not to be considered. The talked of benefits to the state at large will never materialize. It is doubtful if five per cent of the population of the state will receive any benefit from the exposition. It is a time for rare economy and not for prodigal expenditure, for carelessness and saving and not for ostentatious display.

The treatment of the exposition as an Omaha institution is naturally enough objected to by its promoters who will continue to strenuously contend that it is for the entire trans-Mississippi region.

M. B. SLOCUM.

CHENEY VIGILANTES.

Repeal the Charge That They Are Persecuting the Grossmans.

CHENEY, Feb. 10.—To a recent article published in the Lincoln News, we wish to make a brief reply. The article referred to was one criticizing the vigilantes' committee at this place because of their objections to the parole of Fred Grossman, now serving time in the state prison for stealing hogs. The article insinuated that this organization is "possessed with more of a spirit of persecution than of prosecution," and that instead of lifting up a "fallen one" we were inclined to keep him down, to all of which we plead "not guilty." To substantiate our plea we will cite the writer of the article in question to the fact that we have never molested anyone but thieves, and when we got up a petition with almost 200 names attached thereto, to keep the Grossmans in the penitentiary, the citizens for miles around approved our action, because the reputations of these Grossmans are as well known in this vicinity as that of the prairie coyote, and considered somewhat in the same light. When we announced that we were promised by the "authorities in power" that our petition would be respected and that the Grossmans would have to serve their respective terms in prison, the satisfaction expressed was general in all directions, and when we learned that our own petition and the promises we had received had been ignored, the disapproval expressed was as general as the previous satisfaction, and we would also call attention to the fact that when the Grossmans tried to get up a petition for a pardon or parole they had to go miles out of their neighborhood for the few names they did secure, and since Fred has been returned to the prison (almost as quietly as he was let out) we hope the authorities are getting well acquainted with them as we think we are. We would like to ask their sympathetic friend what excuse he can offer for the old man who scarcely tasted the pure air of freedom when he, with other members of his family, were caught coming along an escaped convict, and by the way, we would like to ask the authorities if someone prosecuted, and lastly, if the writer of the aforesaid article can explain how there are any "mitigating circumstances" when a man, possessed of all the necessities of life, goes out in the night and steals and sells his neighbors' property? Then we will acknowledge that we are wrong, but until he can do that in a satisfactory manner we brand his statements as false and maintain that we have a right to see that the law is enforced and we have a right to object when it is not enforced.

We are different from the writer of said article, in that we are not afraid to sign our names to our article, and if he, she or it will do the same the public may be pleased to know the friend who takes such an interest in the Grossman family.

CHAR. M. RING,
F. MURRAY JR.,
E. S. CUMMINGS,
Committee.

AN ANTI-OPTION BILL

Is Recommended by the Committee on Agriculture in the Missouri Legislature.

ITS MAIN PROVISIONS.

Prevent all but Actual Deals in Grain and Provisions Under Heavy Penalties.

A Railroad Bill.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 10.—The house committee on agriculture has agreed to recommend the passage of the most stringent law against dealing in futures that the lawyers of the house can devise.

The bill provides in the first two sections that no person shall buy or sell grain or farm products that are not actually in his possession. The third section says: "Any person who shall sell or offer to sell any such wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, cotton or other farm products which he has not in his actual possession at the time, or who shall buy or offer or pretend to buy any such wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, cotton or other farm products without having the same actually delivered at the time, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than two nor more than five years."

The Democrats of the committee voted for the bill and the Republicans against it, but a minority report is not expected.

Organ of Dent introduced a bill this morning to prevent railroads from charging more than 3 cents a mile for passenger fares under any circumstances. On some branch lines the rates are 4 cents and sometimes higher.

CIVIL SERVICE REPORT.

Half of All Government Positions Now Classified.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The thirteenth annual report of the civil service commission, covering the past fiscal year, has been submitted to the President. It reviews the growth of the government's civil service, the efforts of the commission to eradicate partisanship in federal offices, and important civil service reforms and extensions contemplated.

The total approximate number of positions in the civil service branch of the government is 178,717. Of these 87,107 are in the classified service and 91,610 unclassified. Of those not yet classified 68,728 are postmasters of the fourth class. Of those remaining in the unclassified, many will be transferred to the classified service by the action of the rules.

As to the tenure of office, the report says, our administrative system now presents the anomaly of filling certain inferior positions by the test of merit and changing every four years the higher positions, like collectors of customs and internal revenue, postmasters and chiefs of bureaus, in which the largest capacity and longest experience are required, and thus frequently subjecting subordinates to inexperienced and incompetent superiors, to the demoralization of the public service.

The gradual increase in the number of presidential offices, it is asserted, is bound to force a change in the method of filling them. There are now nearly 10,000 persons in the public service commissioned by the President, and this number is growing every year. At this rate of increase, says the report, in a few years it will be physically impossible for the President and cabinet officers to examine the papers and hear arguments and complaints referring to the large number of persons to be commissioned, and the repeal of the four years' tenure laws will be absolutely necessary.

From Illinois.

STROUT, Pike County, Ill., Jan. 25, 1897

ED INDEPENDENT.—As has been said, legislatures don't think of everything. I am not a citizen of your state, but as I have served as assessor in your state, also here, I should like to see an amendment to the revenue law that would enable the assessor to find more credits and place more of the burden of taxation where it belongs. Therefore I call your attention to this plan: First amend the law so when the assessor goes to list mortgaged property he will list what capital the owner has in it to such owner and the mortgage to the owner of the mortgage; Second, I would have the assessor furnished with a stamp or seal, and have all notes that were out at the time for listing property, void if they did not bear the assessor's seal. We could not get such a law in this gold-bug state, but thought it might be possible in your state, where I hope justice will reign.

Yours respectfully,
A. SHUFELT.

P. S. We did all we could for Hon. W. J. Bryan here. This township gave him 298 to McKinley 88. The county gave him 2,300 majority and would have done better if it had not been for our thieving democratic ring which stole over \$42,000 of the county in twelve years; but the bottom fell out when a populist got on the committee to settle with the county officers.

A. S.
Ripans Tabules: one gives relief.