

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

In this column we will publish communications of a worthy and suitable character, received from subscribers to this paper. No communication should contain more than 300 words. Manuscript will not be returned.

Letter to J. W. Johnson.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

J. W. Johnson, Lincoln, Neb.—I reckon you will be sorter surprised to hear from me, and to know I am here at the capital of our glorious republic. The recollection of me may have escaped your mind, as your time is all taken up in abusing the "pops and demes" as you call them, so I will tell you who I be. I am John W. Jayson, late of Sarpy Center, Sarpy county, Nebraska. Of course, you will remember that I came to see you at your home in Lincoln last winter. Then you know I wanted your advice, and comfort, and I got them both. It is surprising how much advice one can get for nothing, ain't it? And as for comfort, that comes plenty cheap to a feller if he aint too particular about the quality.

I had always been greatly struck by your intertain letters that have been printed in all the state republican papers of Nebraska.

No matter if the crops were bad or, when they were good, if the prices were low, whether discouraged by the ravages of hog cholera or chintz bugs, I could pick up one of them papers containing a letter of yours, and get cheered up in no time. You did poke sich fun at the "pops and demes" and socked the ridicule into them so hard, that your arguments were unanswerable, and I couldnt keep from knowing that you was right and they was wrong. Well, as you had writ durin the campaign, that the election of McKinley would bring prosperity to onet, that he was the great a-postle of protection, an, when the ballots were counted, and he was declared elected, every industry would start up, and all our land and produce would increase in value, an you said if Bryan was elected, "things would jist continue going to the devil, an at a more rapid gate," them about the words you wrote. Well, you know how I was fixed, family broken up, mortgage on farm, an me a gitten old, an a sufferin from my old wounds and diseases that I got in the service of my country, (or "inkurred" as the pension office fellers put it.) McKinley was elected, but we didnt see no prosperity in November, she didnt show up in December, and in January I could stand it no longer, and I says, "I'll jist go up to Lincoln an see this man Johnson, and git some comfortin assurances from him. You know my old farm was then advertised for sheriff sale, and if that sail comes off before prosperity sailed in I was ruined. I can't help remember what your hired hand said when I called to your house and asked for you. He said you "was down to the First National bank, a-havin a talk with the president about the subject of your next letter" an he asked me what my business with you might be, and when I told him that I had come way from Sarpy Center, Sarpy county, to have a talk with you, as to the time prosperity was to arrive at Sarpy Center, an to git a few crumbs of comfort from your learned, interestin discourse, he sorter smiled a sarcastic smile and said, (an this is his remark that I keep thinkin of), "I reckon Johnson is about the smartest man in this whole county, he knows everything, or at least he thinks he does, an that seems to amount to the same thing to a Nebraska republican. Johnson is a great philosopher when it comes to other people's troubles. He would comfort a woman in child birth by telling her how much more she would have suffered had they been twins or triplets, and when I have the sick headache he braces me up by telling me how much severer the Asiatic cholera is. Johnson can furnish an infallible prescription for any disease or trouble that afflicts some one else but when he come home sick with the grip he said he caught from some republican members of the legislature, you would have thought he was going to die. He kept the whole family and some of the neighbors awake the rest of the night, had half of the doctors in the city here and was going to make his will, when he got well enough to remember that the president of the First National bank had a mortgage on all our property for more than he could sell it for the way the times is." He said this kinder bitter like an I didnt know what to make of it, an I dont now. What did he mean?

Well, I had my talk with you and I must say, that you did brace me up. You explained to me that the reason, or one reason, that prosperity had not come immediate on McKinley's election, was that the dampfoot pops and demes continued to put their regular old calamity howl, an that scared off eastern capitalists an investors, an then you told me, confidentially, that those noble philanthropists and true statesmen, Havemeyer, Rockefeller, Morgan, Carnegie and others, who had so nobly aided our party's savior, Mark Hanna, in raising the twenty million dollar missionary fund with which we converted the triffers and chumps; that they had concluded to side track prosperity until Hanna's end of the bargain that he had made for McKinley had been complied with. If I am not mistaken you said that the full tide of prosperity would not set in until after a new tariff had become a law. Well, I had to be content with this, an I started back to Sarpy Center comparatively happy. On my way back home I stopped at our county seat to see if I could not get the sale of my farm postponed until prosperity could get here. Only put off the sale until Havemeyer and company were willing that we should have good times, just until a tariff bill became a law by which our friends, who furnished us with the money with which we convinced the voters, should recover from foreign importers one hundred times the amount they subscribed to fix things. If I could do this I could save something for the honest toil of both my wife and me of thirty-two years. I went to the bank and was then told that it was no use to ask it. The president said "our eastern correspondents will not stand it any longer. In the past they have cheerfully loaned their money to the farmers of this state at 12 1/2 per cent, but the pops and demes keep up such a howl that the eastern investors have become frightened. They are afraid that the legislature will pass a

law making 7 per cent legal interest, and they dont propose to take chances." Well, what was I to do? I went back to Sarpy Center almost broken hearted. The good old farm must be sold. Sold by the sheriff. Can you imagine how I felt? For over ten years I had worried day and night when I thought of that growin mortgage and increasing interest. Thought of both them climbin up like the mercury in a thermometer in the July sun. I didnt take any comfort at all, except when I would get hold of them papers havin your letters in them. Why, it got so I couldnt sleep without dreamin about it. A sleepin or awakin the old farm was on my mind constant. I could hear the voice of our sheriff yellin "go in, go in, go in," and I would jump up from my sleep with a heavy feelin a pressin at my heart, and a cold sweat a streamin from me. You cant tell how dear the old farm was to me. The happiest an the saddest days of my life had been spent on that sweet, old spot. Johnson do you ever review the dear and tender recollections of the past? I can do nothing else and the dear old farm is the spot where centers all my joys and sorrows. I think of the sweet June days in 1865 after two years in the army, carrying two rebel bullets in my body, I brought Mary, my bride, to that quarter section, when it was nothin but unbroken prairie covered thick with waving grass, that came to the top of the wagon bed. We had come all the way from Indiana to make a home for ourselves and for our children. Now the old place must go, and with it thirty-two years of honest womanly and manly toil. That old farm where all our loving hopes were breathed and all our ambitious plans were laid. How we labored from earliest dawn to close of day, yet love so lightened our heavy work that both Mary and I were content and happy. Our children came, adding to our cares and trials but making more joyous everyday, and more light our burdens. How carefully we saved and how judiciously we planned in the hope of a competence in our old age none but those who have made a life struggle will ever know. How proud we were when from our first sod house, we moved into our frame cottage. In that cottage where the morning glories climbed the porch, our eight babes were born, and in that cottage three of them died, then I think of the grand time we had when we moved into the large frame house that must now be sold with the old farm. Our cottage had become too small, our children were growing up, and we did for them what all other living parents do for theirs. Then trouble and sickness came, crops failed, doctors bills increased. The boys grew up, disinclined with farming they sought the town. The girls married and left for homes of their own. Then, as in 1865 Mary and I were left on the old farm alone, with children gone and that incentive for labor absent. Mary began to fail, the light faded from her eyes and I was left alone indeed, that voice that I loved to hear was silent, the heart that had ever thrilled with tender interest had ceased to beat, those tired and weary hands that for so many years had rendered cheerful toil for those she loved, were now at rest. Mary was dead. Now the old farm must be sold, my throat knots and my heart throbs as these memories come to me. I think of Mary's and the children's graves in the family burying ground in one corner of the old orchard; that old orchard that I had watched bloom for thirty years, and which has never bloomed but that I am reminded of the June of 1865 when she and I were married. But why should I repeat all this to you, I told you much of it when I was at your house in Lincoln, I would have told you all then but I thought you did not care to hear it, you acted tired and I stopped, my troubles did not seem to interest you much, you who are red hot after the pops and demes cannot be expected to have interest in the joys and sorrows, the romance and trials, and the loves and the deaths of others. But these memories are all there is of this life to me. But I will finish. Last month the old farm was sold, the people had no money and none turned out to bid. But one bid was made and that was by the eastern money loaner, he bid three thousand and one dollars and it was struck off to him for that. You see they had appraised my old farm at only four thousand five hundred dollars and the lawyer had bid one dollar over the two-thirds of this. Sheriff Startzer, who was one of the appraisers, wanted to appraise the farm at \$40 per acre, but two of my republican neighbors said the way the times were it was not worth more than \$27 per acre and they had their way although the sheriff worked hard to change their minds. Here is another thing that I can't set through my head: When I made my loan, these two same republican neighbors swore that my land was worth \$50 per acre, but they now insist that it "as not worth more than \$27 and Judge Howard said that if it had not been for the act passed by our populist legislature, they would have got a big deficiency judgment against me I did not understand this what did he mean? Thirty-two years of hard work and the old farm sold for less than \$20 per acre, when I had been offered \$50 for it years ago.

Well with the old farm gone what could I do, broken in health and in spirits I was about to give up when one of the comrades of the G. A. R. Post of which I am the commander, reminded me of what Dave Mercer told me. It was last fall during the campaign and he was at Sarpy Center shaking hands with us and asking us to vote and work for him and to get some of the old boys who had gone over to the pops and demes to vote for him because his father had been a union soldier, and then I told him my troubles about the mortgage and he said the times would be all right just as soon as McKinley was elected and that he was sure that I would get out of my financial trouble all right and that he would see that my pension was increased just as soon as we got a republican commissioner of pensions, and then he said that if the time ever came, that I needed it, he would get me a good government position, which he could easily do as soon as McKinley was president, as it would be an old soldiers administration, sure enough I was Post Commander and had a good deal of influence among the old veterans, and may be Dave promised more than he could carry out, but I could think of no way out of my trouble and so I sold everything I had, paid my debts and started for Washington. But I forgot, there is another matter I want to ask you about. The day the old farm was sold there was a number of fellows loafing around the court house and when the sheriff knocked the old farm off and the attorney had

stated that that was just the amount against the farm, a fellow who had been listening spoke up and said, "Talk about hard times in Nebraska, just look at the mortgages that are being paid off, here is another \$3,000 debt paid. How could we pay our debts if the times were hard? It is all nonsense gentlemen, here we are paying up our mortgages and canceling our debts, of course we are losing our farms, but thank God we can pay our debts and we are doing it." Now what did he mean? He spoke sorter bitter and the lawyer called him a pop. I notice you keep socking it to the pops and demes about drinking and reminding them of "whisky Ridge" Well I want to tell you confidentially that on my way here a lot of drunken fellows got on the train at Cleveland, there was hardly a sober man in the crowd and being a good republican I thought I had struck a lot of delegates from the Ohio state democratic convention. What was my surprise when on inquiring I learned that they were delegates from the convention of republican clubs that had been held in Detroit. I couldn't believe it at first, but I had to, they were cheering for "Mark Hanna, what's the matter with Mark Hanna, he's all right he can buy an election or any old thing." This was a shock to me for while I knew all dems and pops were not drunkards, I thought all drunkards were pops or dems. I read your letter out loud to a fellow who sat with me and I laughed at what you said about the "Little Giant" and the trouble Bryan is having with the pops and dems and it seemed to rile the other fellow and he said the republicans would have a good deal more trouble than they are having, if some of the ex-state officials and others were not in the penitentiary, and that there were more of the gang who were afraid they would land in the pen themselves. I wonder what he meant and who he was? He seemed to be thoroughly familiar with Nebraska and our people.

Well I must close, I will write you soon again to tell you my impressions on the trip and of the capitol and how Dave Mercer gets along with my position and my pension. I know you will keep socking the ridicule into the pops and demes but I must confess that I have seen and heard some things since leaving Nebraska, that somehow or other that ridicule does not appear to explain nor answer. I read your hot ridicule of the pops and dems to my fellow passenger and asked him what he thought of it and he replied that it reminded him of the saying of an old philosopher who said of a certain class of persons, "when they can't answer our arguments they make fun of our clothes." Now what did he mean by that. J. W. Johnson let me hear from you. Very respectfully, JOHN W. JAYSON.

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The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of Testimonials.

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Distinct Improvement in Nebraska.

The New York World has made inquiry among the large cities of the country in order to discover "how much prosperity there is." It is gratifying that in this report Omaha makes the best showing in the list published by the world on Tuesday. The headlines used by the world tell the story of the conditions in the various towns so far as heard from. Here they are: Fifty thousand idle in Philadelphia. Twenty-five thousand unemployed in Buffalo. Labor market overcrowded in Indianapolis. Conditions worse than last year in St. Louis. Labor conditions deplorable in San Francisco. Woolly reports from Connecticut. Many idle in Rhode Island. Better times expected in Kentucky. Worst since the panic of 1873 in Boston. Not so bad in Kansas. No improvement in Denver. Good outlook at New Orleans. Distinct improvement in Nebraska. It will be observed that "better times" are expected in Kentucky," a state that declared for McKinley. It will also be observed that Louisiana, where there is a "good outlook," Kansas, where it is "not so bad," and Nebraska, where there is "distinct improvement" all declared for William J. Bryan.—World Herald.

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EDITOR'S IDEAS.

The state republican committee selected the eagle as the ticket emblem. This was apropos. Either the eagle or vulture would do. Both are birds of prey, and truly emblematic of latter day republicanism.—Adams County Democrat.

No harm can come from watching an honest official, and the only way to be sure that an official is honest is to watch him, and watch him closely. The worst frauds can pass as honest men if they are not watched.—Auburn Granger.

How easy to publish a republican paper when Mark Hanna furnishes the editorial matter and Joe Johnson, the biggest fool on earth, the rest of the matter. One nice thing about it, when you have read one paper, you have read all in the state.—Red Cloud Nation.

To deny the justness of the Initiative is to deny the right of petition. To deny the right of the referendum is to deny the justness of allowing the people the right to vote on constitutional amendments, the issuance of bonds or any other question affecting their welfare.—Sledge Hammer.

Republican papers say the reason our state warrants were below par under republican rule, was because of fear of calamity in case the pops should win. Then why are warrants at par after the pops did win? These fellows are rattled. Like the erring children of Israel of old, who worshipped the first golden calf, "in their humiliation their judgment has been taken away!"—Clay County Patriot.

Are there any jobs in the Dingley bill? Certainly there are. Plenty of them. These jobs ought to compensate many of the contributors to the campaign and constitute a standing offer for further favors. It must be remembered that it is a republican measure rushed through under the false pretense that an overflowing treasury needs a larger surplus but really for the purpose of adjusting the accounts of the republican party and providing funds for future campaigns.—Silver Knight.

Does a corporation have more rights than a private citizen in Nebraska? Yes. Look at the record in the stockyards case for the proof. The company is supposed to be a body corporate, occupying a level with an individual citizen. The state passes a law affecting the interests of the corporation. A citizen of Massachusetts says he is a part and parcel of the corporation, and a handy United States court enjoins the state against an enforcement of the law. It would be difficult for one citizen of the state to spread himself out from Nebraska to Boston. The Times believes the time is ripe for the state to promptly annul the charter of every corporation which tramples the state law under its feet.—Papillion Times.

Don't tax the poor millionaire. Judge Dykman, last week handed down his decision in the Terrytown assessment cases in which John D. and William Rockefeller, John Terry, Louis Stern, John C. Barrow, John D. Archbold, and other multi-millionaires sought to have their assessments, as made by the board of assessors of the town of Greenburg reduced.

Judge Dykman wrote the opinion in the case which was in favor of the millionaire, setting aside the assessment in some cases and reducing the assessment in others. To tax the necessities of life is alright. The poor are powerless to help themselves. But the wealthy must be protected from excessive taxation.—Twentieth Century.

A visit to any exclusive and costly summer resort this warm weather shows how well the politicians live. They own fine carriages, have private bathing pavilions, live on the fat of the land and play the part of lords of creation. They are able to do this owing to the large sums of money they get from street car companies, railroads and corporations generally. If these politicians were content to live upon the liberal salaries they get from the public treasury, they would not be put to the necessity of selling themselves body and soul to the magnates. But they want to ride in carriages and smoke costly cigars and at the same time accumulate big fortunes. So they give away franchises and betray the people. These politicians are dependent upon the votes of the people in the tenement houses and side streets for all the luxuries they enjoy. Instead of attempting to ameliorate the condition of the masses they make terms with the classes. It is positively indecent in these representatives of the people to lead such luxurious lives. They know the hardships the great majority are forced to endure. But they are too venal and ignorant to play a noble part. They do not know anything about social questions, and they do not care anything about them. They are worse than useless. The people can not be too vigilant in watching politicians. Any senator or representative who owns houses and carriages, country seats and city mansions is not a fit representative of the masses. If his associates are railway magnates he is dangerous. When he becomes counsel for a street railway combine he ought to be made to understand that his usefulness as a public man has come to an end. Corporation politics should be abolished.—Twentieth Century.

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The Dingley Bill Does Not Reduce Taxation on a Single Article of Necessity.

It increases taxation on nearly every article. The revenue producing capacity of the new law is largely a matter of guess work. Its effect upon business and upon wages remains to be seen. The one sure thing is that it will sensibly increase the cost of living to every family in the United States.

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NOTICE.

To Phoebe Sheldon—non-resident defendant—You are hereby notified that on the 12th day of July, 1897, Walter Sheldon filed a petition against you in the District Court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which are to obtain a divorce from you on the ground that you have wilfully abandoned the plaintiff without good cause, for the term of two years last past.

You are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, the 22nd day of August, A. D., 1897. By A. E. HOWARD, his attorney.

C. H. Mann, E. Baldwin, S. E. Baldwin have associated themselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation in the state of Nebraska for the transaction of business under the name of the Baldwin Bros. Hardware Co. The principal place of business will be in Lincoln, county of Lancaster and state of Nebraska. The nature of the business to be transacted shall be a general hardware business with all transactions necessary for said business. The capital stock of said corporation shall be the sum of \$8,000 in shares of \$100 each, all to be fully paid up at the commencement of the business. The existence of the corporation shall commence on the 9th day of June, A. D., 1897, and continue twenty-five years. The business shall be conducted by a board of directors to be elected by the stockholders, not to exceed three in number, as shall be prescribed in the laws of such corporation. The officers shall be president, treasurer, and secretary. The highest amount of indebtedness to which said corporation shall at any time subject itself shall be \$4,000.

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Indianapolis and return, \$18. August 16 and 17, September 7 and 8. Buffalo and return, \$24.70, August 21 and 22. Salem Chattanooga, \$2.58 round trip, August 7 to 15. Chicago, Peoria, Bloomington and St. Louis, \$10.90 one way, July 16 to 21, 23, 26, 30, August 2, 6, 9, and 13. G. W. BONNELL, C. P. and T. A.

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Out of town people who would like to go via the best route in through cars are requested to write me concerning this trip. A. S. FIELDING, C. T. A., 117 So. 10th street, Lincoln, Neb.

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