

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

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Representative Charles Wooster writes in his Silver Creek Times calling attention to the fact that the Platte county fair association has sold its property and gone out of the fair business.

The correspondence columns of the Independent continue to be well supplied and well read. There is no feature of a paper that is so interesting or does so much to make people think and progress as the one filled with letters fresh from the people.

The enactment of an election law in Kentucky which puts the control of the entire election machinery into the hands of three men to be appointed by the legislature is an outrageous and undemocratic measure.

The Illinois supreme court has rendered a decision in an action involving the constitutionality of the Burlington relief department. This was the case of Charles H. Eckman who was ordered by a foreman to crawl under an engine to tighten a valve.

It is not lawful for a railroad company to engage in the insurance business. A corporation can only exercise such powers as are expressly granted to it, or such implied powers as may be necessary to carry out or effectuate its express powers.

The island of Cuba should be free. Congress and the president should recognize the independence of the island. This nation should accord to the Cubans the rights of belligerents.

FIXING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

The recent destruction of the battleship Maine has no precedent in international law to guide in fixing the responsibility for the loss of that magnificent vessel.

Assuming a mine exploded by a fanatic or by accident, that would be the end of the affair. Giving international law the widest latitude and there would be no liability against the government of Spain.

As to the right of a nation to fortify its harbor as it sees fit, there can be no doubt. This right is a conceded one, and is exercised by all nations.

This position would practically release the Spanish government for it puts the burden of proof upon the United States and requires such direct proof of the complicity of the Spanish officers in the affair that an attempt to secure it would be almost useless.

On the other hand there are other high authorities on international law that take a very different view of the case. Prof. H. E. Von Holst of the university of Chicago, holds that in any case supposable Spain is responsible and liable for damages.

If it is really an individual crime, Spain would certainly not be responsible for it, for it is a well understood principle of international law that nations are not responsible for the acts of individuals.

If it be true that, as it is asserted, the harbor of Havana is provided with torpedoes and submarine mines, and if it be further true that the place of anchorage was assigned to the Maine by Spanish officials, and the disaster has befallen the Maine through those mines or torpedoes, Spain, in my opinion would have to pay damages for the loss of the ship, besides indemnities for the loss of the sailors, dead or wounded.

I am inclined to go even one step further. I think the liability of Spain could not be denied if neither the place of anchorage was assigned to the Maine by Spanish officials nor the explosion was due to the criminal act of some individual, but simply to some unaccountable accident.

These statements represent fairly the position of those who favor immediate action on account of the loss of the battleship Maine and those who favor delay pending further investigation.

The loss of the Maine must be considered as a matter entirely separate from the independence of the island of Cuba. It must be treated in the same manner that it would be treated had the affair occurred in the harbor of any other friendly nation.

The island of Cuba should be free. Congress and the president should recognize the independence of the island. This nation should accord to the Cubans the rights of belligerents.

The same principle that a strong man should protect an innocent child from an enraged and crazed parent. Spain's insanity has been clearly proven. Her methods of warfare and policy of cruelty and starvation are horrifying and disgraceful.

RE-HEARING FOR BARTLEY

The supreme court granted a rehearing to Bartley Thursday of last week. This does not mean that a new trial will be granted him. A motion for a new trial was made and argued before the court and overruled.

The "foreign policy" of the Nebraska University is noteworthy. It is also beginning to bear fruits. Among the many sons and daughters driven out last year the case of the librarian is most remarkable in its consequences.

The Chancellor forthwith engaged his man, and it is now admitted by all who use the library or who know ought of university affairs that sex is the only qualification for a librarian which the aforesaid man possesses.

For our part we are tired of the whole policy of Chancellor MacLean's administration. We believe that Nebraska men and women should fill all positions in this state, and we are unalterably opposed to the present method of the board of regents which provides a banquet for the incompetents of New England and Virginia.

The report of the state board of transportation 1891 compiled by Joe Johnson, C. J. Dilworth and J. N. Kountz, figured the value of railroads in Nebraska at \$30,000 per mile. On that valuation it calculated that local rates were too low—made so by the railroads themselves and not by stress of competition either, for at most of the stations there is no competition.

The "curse of gold" is the name of a new play which has been put upon the stage in the east. It presents the money question from a dramatic point of view. Free silver papers cast equalled the play as not having merit equal to the question dealt with.

BEEF SUGAR IN NEBRASKA.

The active controversy which has been going on between the beet growers at Grand Island and Norfolk and the Oxnards over the terms of contract for the present year's crop has been brought to an end by the withdrawal on the part of the Oxnards of the objectionable Hawaiian clause.

In his letter from Washington announcing the withdrawal of the clause Henry T. Oxnard says: "The present contract which we offer the farmers of Nebraska gives them on an average of about 30 cents more per ton than they received last year.

Another letter from the secretary, dated June 5, 1894, says: "Write me what the postoffice fight in Hendricks precinct amounts to, and who, in your judgment, ought to be appointed postmaster. Probably it would be well for you to write to friends in Nebraska City, upon whom you can depend, and stir them up to active labor in the securing of a delegation that shall stand for sound money and the best interests of all the people of Nebraska."

On November 16, 1896, after Dr. White's discharge, Mr. John Nordhouse, private secretary to the secretary of agriculture, in answer to Dr. White's letter of November 14, wrote: "In the meantime I take the liberty of informing you for your own personal satisfaction that the secretary's recent action in your case (meaning Dr. White's discharge) was based on what he considered the strongest and most indisputable evidence from several reliable sources as to very decided pernicious political activity upon your part during the recent campaign."

Dr. White afterwards wrote several letters to the secretary assuring him that he (Dr. White) had taken no part whatever in the campaign. The question arises as to whether it was pernicious political activity or pernicious political inactivity that caused Mr. White's discharge immediately after the election of 1896.

J. Sterling Morton can profitably devote a column or two of space in his newly established paper to an explanation of the report of the civil service committee which finds that he discharged the employes in the South Omaha bureau of animal industry for political reasons.

During the winter months we sent bills to all delinquent subscribers. A few of them responded promptly with the cash, but many more have "misplaced" the bill, have "forgotten" it, have "neglected" it, and for many other reasons too numerous to mention, have failed to give the bill the attention which it deserved.

A case has been brought from Pawnee county by the supreme court for the purpose of testing the new school land act passed by the last legislature which prohibited further sale of these lands. The action is brought by a lessee of school land who claimed the right to purchase under the old law under which his lease was made.

The committee on civil service has completed and published the report of its investigations concerning the discharge from the bureau of animal industry at South Omaha during J. Sterling Morton's term as secretary of agriculture. It appears from the

report that Secretary Morton required many "unofficial" duties from his appointees. Dr. White was one of the parties discharged by Mr. Morton upon a charge of inefficiency. The investigating committee from the senate find that Dr. White was competent to perform all the official duties that could be required of him.

As showing the nature of the unofficial duties that devolved upon Dr. White and which he was for obvious reasons incompetent to perform, Dr. White submitted a letter written to him June 23, 1894, by Secretary Morton, the last paragraph of which was as follows: "You and Dr. Sheimer (Shirmer) will be largely responsible to the next state convention for the character of the delegation from Otoe. You or he should correspond with Mr. Rolfe, W. A. Cotton, Henry Shewell and Ed Shelton, and tell them directly that if they keep the town right the back precincts will be sold. It will be easier to carry that county for sound money in the convention to be held during next August and September than it was last year.

Another letter from the secretary, dated June 5, 1894, says: "Write me what the postoffice fight in Hendricks precinct amounts to, and who, in your judgment, ought to be appointed postmaster. Probably it would be well for you to write to friends in Nebraska City, upon whom you can depend, and stir them up to active labor in the securing of a delegation that shall stand for sound money and the best interests of all the people of Nebraska."

On June 12 the secretary wrote: "Dr. Sheimer (Shirmer) should join with you in every reasonable effort to evangelize the finances of those people in Otoe county who have been misled by the felicitous fallacies upon the money question with which the county has been flooded."

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HARDY'S COLUMN.

Spring—War Cloud—Republicans Converted—Moore, Bartley and Graham Horse Sense—Treasurer Gage—School Warrants—University Girl—Rock Burial.

Spring is here and winter is off duty. Farmers can push ahead their plowing and sowing of small grain. Cool nights will keep the fruit back so that late frosts can do no harm.

We expect within a week the court of inquiry will report that the Maine was blown up by a Spanish torpedo and the president will send into congress this report with a message recommending the acknowledgment of Cuba's independence and also a demand on Spain for indemnity.

Now the republicans have just got ready to be honest. Vote for our candidates once more, say they, and we will show you that we can be honest. Every old republican must stand up and vote the straight republican ticket, yellow dog and all.

It was nothing short of good horse sense in Judge Sullivan to ask a rehearing of the Bartley case. He came to the bench after the first hearing and being one of the most important cases ever brought before the court in this state, and he standing alone, should understand the case thoroughly before giving his opinion.

Treasurer Gage, in a speech before the chamber of commerce, in Cleveland, raised the same old white over the fact that the Bryan men did not lay down after the election of 1896. He also whines that the senate does not leave the common people to the tender mercies of the money power.

Why are school warrants of Lincoln school district selling for one and a half per cent premium. It is not because there is a surplus of money, but because it is not safe to deposit in banks or to invest in any kind of property or business with any hope of getting the same number of gold dollars back.

The university girls, of the state university, gave a concert last week, charged fifty cents admission and cleared over \$400. Now what do you think they did with that money? They gave it to the boys' ball club.

The boys who engineered the burial of the big rock onto the university campus must have been reared in New England where it is common to do such things. But we never buried rocks with bird tracks on. But then such exercise is better than football.

We handed over to Mr. Snyford, of this county, last week, as agent for a relative living at Reets, Kan., \$250 for two bull calves and one two-year-old. The cattle were black, hornless and handsome and had pedigrees as long as your arm.

Salt Rheum

Intense Suffering—Could Not Sleep—Cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

I had salt rheum on my arms, which itched intensely and kept me from sleeping. The skin on my hands would crack open. My friends believed I was suffering from blood poisoning.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—In fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. \$1, six for \$5.

are prompt, efficient and easy in effect. 25 cents.

Your friends will tell you how becoming your clothes are when they see you in one of Deane & Ward's spring suits. Always one price.

Send this paper to some friend in the east.