

Nebraska Independent

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POLITICAL DATES.

- Peoples independent state convention, Lincoln, August 2. Silver democratic state convention, Lincoln, August 2. Silver republican state convention, Lincoln, August 2. Republican state convention, Lincoln, Aug. 10. Congressional conventions—Peoples independent 6th district, Broken Bow, July 14. Peoples independent 4th district, York July 27.

By the way, what has become of the stock yards case brought before Judge Munger of the federal court some months ago?

Congressman Sutherland is mentioned as a likely man for governor, but we want Rhoderick Dhu to stay right where he is. Bide a wee brither and finish the work you have in hand.

Admiral Sampson lives up to the reputation of his ancient namesake. He is the strong man of the present day and is knocking down Spanish forts and fleets with neatness and dispatch.

It was "a sad but glorious day for Spain" when Cervera came out of the bottle. Looking at it from a Spanish point of view, General Shafter is about to add another "sad but glorious day" to Spain's already long list of holidays.

The Spanish admiral, Cervera, succeeded in bottling his fleet at Santiago and the outcome was a magnificent display of fireworks. When the smoke cleared away his ships were things of the past. He should lose no time in cabling to Madrid: "We have met the enemy and we are here."

"Finding is keeping" with the men who make up the expedition to the Philippines. Some uneasiness was manifested among officials at the delay of the first transport in reaching Manila, but when they did arrive they explained their slowness by stating that several islands of the Pacific belonging to Spain had been taken in and the Spanish governors and garrisons were brought along as an evidence of good faith.

Congressman Stark has been favorably mentioned as a man who could unite and successfully lead the reform forces as their candidate for governor, and the democrats of his district seem anxious to endorse him. By so doing they hope to secure his seat in congress for one of their number and the plan would doubtless succeed. However, the congressional convention meets prior to the state convention and congressman Stark will no doubt be named by acclamation. He has made a good representative and deserves a return, and can do more for his constituents and his party in congress than he could as governor of Nebraska.

Uncle Sam is becoming fastidious as to the physical perfection of his soldiers. The examining surgeons are rejecting hundreds of able bodied young men who are used to out door exercise and who are well equipped to work or hunt day after day, and they ought to be able to fight. Considerable difficulty is experienced by the recruiting officers in getting a sufficient number of men who are up to the standard, and if many more volunteers are called for it may be necessary to draft men who can pass the surgeons. No such close examinations were made during the civil war and yet a better lot of soldiers never lined up for battle.

Speaking about the great outburst of "National Pride" on the part of the monopoly press over the eagerness to buy bonds at this time the best parallel yet given is that of the slave market in New Orleans in the old days.

"How much you lotch?" demanded a big, stout, negro woman of her companion on the auction block. "450" was the reply. "Hah" said the first with a fine touch of scorn and pride "I lotch \$800." The pride of the slave woman on the auction block at the price she brought is fit companion for the pride of an American citizen in the price of the nation's bonds. Both represent slavery.

BOODLE IN ELECTIONS.

The populist and silver democratic state committees have published an open statement of campaign receipts and expenses the past year, showing between \$4,000 and \$5,000 collected and paid out—where it was collected and what it was paid for.

This is the first time such a thing has happened in the history of the state and it has created more colic in the gold standard camp than a glass marble in the gizzard of a guinea cock.

The very idea of a pop state committee having \$4,000 to spend and spending it for literature and speakers makes the hand organs of Joe Bartley howl with hunger. The State Journal and Omaha Bee have wept sea-turtle tears over the woes of employes in state institutions who have contributed to the populist campaign funds and torn their hair in horror of contemplating the publication of such iniquity.

Now the fact is that it takes money to carry the truth to the people whether it is the gospel of salvation or the gospel of good government.

It has cost enormous sacrifices of both money and time on the part of poor men in this state to drive out of power the thieves and plunderers who have robbed the people of Nebraska under protection of the courts and the party newspapers in time past. It will cost a great deal more to free the people from the financial and industrial robbery that still continues with sanction of the courts and old party newspapers. Some one has to pay this money and those holding salaried positions are entitled to do their share. Most of them have done so, but no person holding any kind of salaried position under the present administration has been removed or threatened with removal because of failure to contribute.

How has it been with the republican campaign funds?

Does their committee dare publish a statement of its receipts and expenses?

Does it dare print the amounts received from corporations which have asked and received valuable favors at the hands of the party when in power?

Does it dare publish how much of the money stolen from the school children of the state has gone into the conduct of its campaigns?

Does it dare report how much of the insurance fees embezzled by Eugene Moore or the oil inspection fees by Hilton have gone into the common pot for saving Nebraska by the republican route?

Does it dare tell how this money has been spent when gathered—how much has gone for whisky and beer—how much for hiring ward pluggers—how much for "fixing" voters in the large cities?

Does it dare tell how much was paid to "control" the Italian and Bohemian vote in Omaha alone during the 1896 campaign, and to whom it was paid?

Does it dare make a showing at all for the enormous campaign fund brought into this state during that campaign?

Let us have an end of this humbug. The populists have made their showing. Let the republicans make theirs. Let them into the forum of public opinion and show where they got the thousands of dollars spent in Nebraska to keep boodlers and plunderers in office and how they spent it.

Let them show their connection with the shortage of half a million dollars or thereabouts in the Pacific Express company accounts.

Let them answer the direct testimony of the officers of that company that thousands of dollars of the company's money were contributed to the republican campaign in 1896.

Let them tell what became of over \$20,000 which their own committee found had been spent in Douglas County two years ago.

Let them explain such items in their accounts as "Cadet Taylor—8 democrats, \$16," and as this "36 pints of whisky (election day) \$7.20" as appears in the testimony before the committee on privileges and elections in the last legislature.

Let the republican state committee make a clear public statement of their receipts and expenses as the populists have done or stand convicted as charged of boodle and rascality in use of campaign funds.

ELECTIONS IN GERMANY.

The elections for the German parliament are a decided victory for the socialist party. Instead of 44 members which they had in the last parliament they will have 60 and instead of 1,700,000 votes at the last election they have over 2,000,000 now. These gains were made in the face of a general disposition of capitalist parties in Germany to combine against their nominees and the utmost efforts of the emperor and his cabinet to suppress them. The socialist party in Germany corresponds in political belief very closely to the advance guard of populism in the United States. Its program reads very much like a Nebraska or Kansas populist platform and includes:

- 1. Public ownership. 2. Direct legislation by the people. 3. Single progressive income tax. 4. Abolition of wage system by co-operation. 5. Universal free education. 6. Universal free suffrage. 7. Free speech, free press.

8. Free administration of justice.

9. Abolition of standing army; in its place general militia.

10. Shorter hours of labor; abolition of child labor.

Some of the items in this program the people of America enjoy today, but the first four and last there are issues as live in the United States as in Germany. The eighth item especially deserves more attention in this country than it has received. Everyone understands the tremendous disadvantage a poor man is compared with a rich man or corporation in trying to secure his rights in the courts. The proposition of the German socialist is to make the entire machinery of the courts free to litigants, the attorneys and officers being paid by the state for their services.

It is remarkable that the agrarian party in Germany suffered a severe defeat in the recent elections and will have hardly any representatives in the new parliament. The agrarians have been sometimes, though inaccurately, classed as populists. The most prominent features of their program have been protection to farm products and bimetalism. The agrarians have been sometimes represented as the farmers of Germany. Rather they are the farm-owners—the landlords—who have been nearly ruined by the general fall of prices and by the competition of American farm products. Their plan of action has been first to exclude American farm products so as to secure the German market for their own acres and second, the adoption of bimetalism as a means of raising the general scale of prices. The first part of the program has been put in operation by the German ministry by a dozen different devices for excluding American pork, American flour and American fruit from the German market. The distress caused by these restrictive measures to the non-land-owning wage workers has no doubt contributed to the agrarian defeat. In the direction of bimetalism the agrarians in Germany have accomplished nothing to speak of. The results of these German elections are full of encouragement to the radical social reformer, but are a blackeye to half way measures.

The Central Committee of the Populist party for the 4th Congressional District met at York on July 1st and decided to call their convention to nominate a candidate for congress, to meet at the city of York; at 2 o'clock p. m., on Wednesday July 27th 1898. Judge Edward Bates was chairman of the committee and George L. Burr secretary. Representatives of the democratic and silver republican parties were present and expressed a desire to co-operate in electing the nominee of the convention to be held upon the date above given. Every delegate and visitor was free to express his views upon all matters effecting the campaign and it was decided that the state contains plenty of good men for the gubernatorial nomination and that congressman Stark was doing too good work for the 4th district for them to be willing to have him become a nominee for any other office. After a very pleasant and valuable meeting the committee adjourned.

The removal of Ex-Senator John C. Sprecher from the newspaper field by the sale of his Schuyler Quill is a loss that will be felt in every newspaper office in Nebraska. In spite of a dash of eccentric inconsistency and a very bad disposition to make his own personal quarrels the leading feature in his editorial page Sprecher was decidedly in the front rank of strong and interesting editorial writers in this state. His paper was not an echo of anybody. It was free from man-worship and party fetichism—two great devils which lie in wait for the soul of every editor. The Quill bore every week the ear marks of enormous industry and application and its sturdy and even eccentric independence made it largely read everywhere.

The Kansas democrats were offered the place of lieutenant governor on the ticket by the populist convention. The present lieutenant governor is enlisted in the twentieth Kansas. The democrats refused to take his place and nominated the entire ticket of populist state officers by a vote of three to one. This was a very magnanimous and patriotic act, but it ought not to have been required. The men who are good enough to vote for and elect a ticket are good enough to help nominate it. They ought not to be expected to merely "endorse" nominations already made. Neither democrats nor populists can be expected to do this. Justice demands that those who vote a ticket should nominate it and common sense indicates that those who think together and vote together should get together.

John Sherman was right when he ironically observed that "war is hell" but a good many people did not realize it until the news began to come in of the desperate fight at Santiago, and they read the names of fathers, brothers and sons in the long list of killed and wounded. The wrongs of Cuba must be wiped out in blood and the sad part of it is that thousands of young Americans must give of their lives measure for measure with the enemy. By the time this war is over Cuba may well be called "the dark and bloody ground."

JOE BARTLEY IN STATES PRISON.

At a late hour Wednesday night J. S. Bartley, ex-state treasurer of Nebraska, arrived in Lincoln and entered the penitentiary to begin a twenty year sentence.

Bartley was the same quiet, well-dressed, self-possessed individual that he was when in control of the state treasury. He showed no emotion and gave no hint of ever opening his lips on the subject of political secrets known to him.

In response to telephone message Warden Leidigh says he has made no assignment of work to Bartley and cannot do so until he ascertains his physical condition. He is suffering from a bad case of granulated eyelid.

THE DIFFERENCE.

The difference between moneys collected and paid in to the state treasury by populist state officials in the 17 months from January, 1897, to May 1, 1898 and that collected and paid in the previous two years:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes: Paid by populists: \$66,183 12; Paid by republicans: \$13,218 79; Total vote: 84,753; Rep. plurality: 10,574; Rep. majority: 5,469.

For president in 1896 the vote was: McKinley: 48,779; Bryan: 46,662; Levering (Prohib): 919.

It will be noticed that the middle-of-the road vote was not large enough to have changed the result if it had been cast for the fusion ticket, but the large increase in the prohibition vote together with the middle of the road ballots cast no doubt does signify a good deal of dissatisfaction with fusion. Union is the lesson of the Oregon returns.

George L. Burr, secretary of Congressman Stark, was a visitor in Lincoln Saturday and entertained his friends with sketches of life at Washington. He told in an interesting way the story of Congressman Stark's work on the house military committee—and the means he successfully used to prevent the increase of the regular army from being made a permanent increase in peace. In Burr's opinion every preparation is being made not only for increasing the national debt, but standing army to over 100,000 men and the navy in like proportion.

"Save America to Save the World" is the motto of one of the home missionary societies. It is a good motto. Save America by restoring to the people by just legislation the houses, lands and property of which they have been robbed by corporations and combines and by establishing a system of production and distribution founded upon justice. Save the rest of the world by setting it an example of liberty and justice, by sending it books, teachers, good will—not gun powder and bayonets.

One of the planks in the Kansas populist state platform demands an increase in the pay of the private soldier. The gap between the pay of the private at \$13 per month and the lowest commissioned officer at \$115 per month looks a little too big for patriotic American eyes. It is too much like the gap between the section man on the railroad at \$1.15 per day and the division superintendent at \$5,000 per year.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The news of Sampson's decisive victory over Admiral Cervera's fleet at Santiago was received in Lincoln with great enthusiasm and doubtless caused the expenditure of many additional dollars for fire works on the fourth. The state officials from Governor to janitor exchanged hearty congratulations and acted almost like a lot of boys in their rejoicing over the signal triumph of American arms. We are rapidly coming to think that our ships and gunners are the best afloat, and, to use a little expressive slang, "the man who doesn't think so, is a liar."

Despite the exciting war news state politics is beginning to attract attention and candidates are springing up in unexpected places. There is plenty of timber, good, bad and indifferent.

D. Clem, Deaver, of Omaha, wants to be the next governor and doesn't care who knows it. He is laying extensive plans to capture the Douglas county delegation and will have a strong pull if he is successful. However there is a big stump in his way in the person of Hon. John O. Yeiser, who is something of a politician himself and wants to be governor as bad as anybody. He promises to show Mr. Deaver a hot time.

Speaker of the House, Hon. J. N. Gaffin, was in Lincoln last week calling on the boys. He has laid by a good

field of corn on his Saunders county farm and is tanned a deep rich brown, which will not count against him when he comes into the state convention and begins looking around in the corners for the gubernatorial nomination. He is a typical western farmer, shrewd, successful, well informed, and he farms the land—not the farmers.

Hon. A. H. Weir, ex-mayor of Lincoln, is steadily sawing 16 foot fencing and saying nothing. He heard the hum of a lively bee in his bonnet, some time ago, and seemed unable to decide at first just what it meant. It was not long however until he put his ear to the ground and heard the demand rolling in that he run for governor. Mr. Weir is brave enough, but he is also discreet, and he immediately surrendered, and is even now in the hands of his friends.

Matt Gering came over from Plattsmouth last week to get a drink of pure water and incidentally to find out if anyone was insisting that he represent the First District in Congress. He didn't say what he heard but he was seen trailing Congressman Strode around and taking the measure of his footprint with a yard stick. The result must have been satisfactory as he left town with a cheerful smile on his face.

Governor Holcomb is keeping mum these days. Never was there an oyster shut up so tight. He gave out a letter some weeks ago purporting to decline the nomination, but close students of good English claim the letter is double-barreled and that it makes a strong bid for a third term. The private secretary to his excellency, Mr. Maret, smiles and smiles, and is a secretary still.

That recalls a little incident. Maret was mentioned, not long since, as a good man for chairman of the Democratic state central committee, and it rained a storm among the faithful. "Why," they roared, "why do we have to go to another party to get a chairman. Not much! That little scheme don't go." No one seems to know who started it, but a howl went up that awoke one of the state house janitors, and they seem to sleep more, and sounder than anyone west of the Missouri river.

Samuel Lichty, deputy state auditor stands alone; he is a marked man. He does not ride on a pass, and he is after the fellows who do. His correspondence is growing every day and each letter is from an anti-passite who clamors for the official head of every pop who uses a pasteboard on the varnished cars. It is said that a dornick cannot be shied near the state house without hitting a pop with a pass in his inside pocket.

Of course there are two sides to the pass question. One of the governor's henchmen claims that it is almost a necessity for the chief executive to have a pass. The salary of \$2,500 a year would have a big hole in it if full fare was paid every time the governor went to Omaha or other cities to deliver addresses of welcome or attend to official business. There would be a big kick if the fare was charged to the state, "and besides," says the mouthpiece, "a pass does not influence Holcomb in the least."

The present state administration is making a record, and a good one at that. There may be a little inconsistency at times but the main results stand out like a thirteen inch gun on a battle ship. The governor has handled Nebraska's volunteers in an admirable and business-like manner and in spite of such adverse criticism has held steadily on his course and won the good opinion of all fair minded people.

Uncle Jake Wolfe is still raising blooded hogs and leasing state school land to the best advantage. He has brought the business of his office up in splendid condition and has made some very marked improvements over former administrations, as the board's published statements, from time to time, will show.

When Judge Scott, of Omaha, declared that the Midway dances at the Exposition were not respectable and that such antics would have to stop, nearly all the employes at the Capitol building, so it is said, immediately grabbed their hats and started for the windy city to prove to their own satisfaction that the Judge was right. Most of them came back disappointed and at an informal meeting declared the said show to be decidedly tame.

It is reported that the legislative investigating committee has utterly failed and neglected to draw out the last \$7.35 of the \$10,000 appropriation. This is an inexcusable oversight for which Chairman Muts should be held responsible, unless he has left that amount for a nest egg and expects another appropriation to be made by the next legislature.

Samuel Lichty, the insurance deputy of the auditor's office and the only man in the state capital who pays his car fare when he travels, is getting lonesome. He is anxious to correspond with any one who is sincere in their desire to abolish the pass system, to the end that he may see if there are enough persons in the state who can be organized and make a united effort to have this great reform accomplished.—Auburn Post.

THE BANK FETICH.

PROPOSALS OF "EMINENT FINANCIERS" THAT ARE SHEER LUNACY.

The Legitimate Functions of Banks—Issuing Currency Is Not One of Them—This Belongs to the Government Alone—A High Authority.

"Matthew Marshall," who has for years been the leading financial writer on the New York Sun, comes out boldly once in awhile for what is known as "greenback doctrine." The following is from a recent article written by Mr. Marshall:

The committee on banking and currency of the house of representatives has reported favorably a bill the object of which is, as they declare, "the elimination of government paper money from circulation" and "the issue of a banking currency, based purely upon assets without either bonds or reserve notes," which they have the audacity to assert "will involve no risk of undue inflation or of loss to the note holder."

The same fanatical faith in the efficacy of banks to remedy every financial evil, which resembles more the reverence of the savage for his fetich than the conviction of rational men, was shown in the senate in the debate upon a bill to incorporate the International American bank, an institution designed to facilitate and increase the commerce of this country with the countries of South America. At present our imports from that quarter of the globe amount in value to about \$110,000,000 yearly, whereas our exports thither amount to only about \$35,000,000. Consequently, in order to pay to our South American creditors the difference due them of \$75,000,000 yearly, our merchants are obliged to buy from the European creditors of those same debtors claims to that amount, in the shape of drafts arising out of the sale of European merchandise. We send to Europe agricultural products, Europe sends to South America manufactured goods, and we take our pay from Europe, in the coffee, india rubber, hides and metals which we import from South America.

Evidently so long as we do not sell directly to South America enough of our own products to pay for the products we buy, we must, of necessity, draw upon our credits in Europe. Some of our senators, however, fancy that by establishing a great bank, under a charter from congress, we shall in some mysterious way change the present condition of things. Senator Frye remarked: "We paid Great Britain last year for exchange alone on what little, miserable business we do with South America over \$2,000,000. Why should this great nation do that? Why not have our own bank?" Why, indeed, except that "our own bank" cannot create the exchange which we now buy from Europe. So long as we buy from South America \$75,000,000 more in merchandise than we sell to it, no bank here can furnish the drafts needed to pay the \$75,000,000. It is pure fetichism to suppose that a bank can reverse the laws of trade and supply the means of paying debts to people who have nothing to give for them.

The same superstitious faith in the omnipotence of banks dominated the Indianapolis bankers' convention of January, 1897, at which were adopted the resolutions out of which, by gradual steps, the currency scheme now before the house of representatives has been evolved. The grievance which that convention was specially called to redress was the lack of money in the west and the southwest, and the measure required for the purpose was unanimously declared to be an increase in the number of banks and their wider distribution. It being admitted that banks in these destitute localities could not make a living by legitimate banking alone, the privilege was demanded for them of issuing, more liberally than is now permitted, notes to serve as money, and this demand now takes the form of one for liberty to all banks to issue circulating notes "upon assets without either bonds or reserve notes." The supporters of the measure do not seem to consider that if the notes issued by such banks are good they will not stay in a poor neighborhood and that if they are not good they will be only instruments for swindling the ignorant and the unwary.

It used to be urged in favor of banks that they are indispensable agents in procuring money for the government by buying its bonds when it needs to sell them, and that without their help no bonds could be sold. This superstition has received its deathblow from the experience we are now having. Instead of the government being obliged to beg assistance from the banks in selling its bonds, it is the banks which are begging the government as a favor to let them have the bonds to sell. They never indeed bought bonds with their own money, but used for the purpose the money of their depositors, and now that the depositors are permitted to do it directly they are buying the bonds without paying toll to the banks.

The legitimate function of banks is to receive money on deposit and lend it out. The issuing of notes to serve as money is a usurpation of a prerogative which properly belongs to the government only, and which should never be delegated except to agencies controlled by the government and responsible to it. To ascribe to bank currency a virtue not possessed by government notes is pure fetich worship, which advancing enlightenment is bound to destroy and which no rational citizen ought to encourage. The people are entitled to the best and safest money that can be furnished them, and there is no money so safe and so good as that issued by the government and secured by the entire wealth of the nation. To ask us to accept, in place of this, the notes of thousands of little banks, managed by thousands of men of moderate abilities, at the best, and frequently, as we see, not entitled to any confidence whatever, is sheer lunacy.