

WHO SHALL IT BE?

Populist and democratic papers over the state are beginning to indulge in the innocent pastime of nominating a candidate for supreme judge in advance of the conventions. Hardly a day goes by that some willing sacrifice fails to appear in print, offering sage advice to the allied forces and imploring them to select the best possible timber, which, by inference, can be some other than the adviser himself. One of the latest examples is a neatly typewritten interview given by Judge George Washington Stubbs to the Lincoln correspondent of an Omaha daily. We quote the opening paragraph:

"I believe that the fusion forces ought to carry Nebraska by a comfortable majority this fall," said Judge Stubbs, "and that if we are wise in our conventions we shall succeed. I, for one, am not appalled at the republican majority last fall, and I see no reason for believing that it can be duplicated at the next election. All indications point to the contrary. Postulating fusion on a good, clean, strong candidate—of which I have no doubt—I am confident that we will carry the state. You cannot judge of normal political conditions in Nebraska by the result last fall."

The Independent has no preferred candidate for the exalted position of supreme judge, but it has some decided prejudices to certain aspirants on one particular line. It is opposed to the nomination of any man for any office who, being able, has done nothing more substantial than wag his jaw in fighting the battles against republicanism. But two of the district judges of Nebraska (Judges Adams and Thompson) have paid any attention whatever to the appeal made by the populist ways and means committee, although all of them who are populists or democrats knew full well that a tolerably large debt was hanging over the state committee, and that the debt ought to be paid. They have been content to sit idle and see the ways and means committee appeal to the "boys in the trenches," as M. F. Harrington would say, for a quarter or a half dollar each. Although drawing from the state something over \$7 for every working day in the year, and working about half the time, some of these judges seem to think they have been exceedingly generous if they have given as much as \$10 in money—and some of them contributed nothing, save "jawbone," during the last campaign.

The Independent knows nothing against Judge Stubbs or his ability as a lawyer and judge; but, to satisfy itself that he has done his full duty by the parties at whose hands he now

holds the responsible position of district judge, it telegraphed to Treasurer Mahn of the populist state central committee as follows:

"Lincoln, Neb.—Theo. Mahn, Alma, Neb.: Wire amount Judge Stubbs contributed to campaign fund last year."

"NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT."

Mr. Mahn replied:

"Alma, Neb., May 22.—Nebraska Independent—My books don't show that Judge Stubbs contributed anything."

"THEODORE MAHN."

It is idle to contend that a judge's expenses are so much greater than the ordinary individual's that out of \$2,500 per year he cannot afford to give anything toward maintaining the expenses of the political parties that placed him in power. The Independent has but the one objection to the nomination of Judge Stubbs; and, unfortunately, he is not the only pebble on the beach of parsimony and ingratitude. There are others; and as their names are mentioned, The Independent intends to give the people enlightenment.

REPUBLICAN EXTRAVAGANCE

The republican legislature and the redeemers at the state house have gone into as petty a little steal as ever disgraced the state in the days of the old regime. They are expending \$5,000 to dig a well and gave the contract to Joe Burns. There is no more necessity for a well on the state house grounds than there is for brains in a republican editor's head. Water is furnished by the city plant for 15 cents a thousand gallons and it cannot be pumped by a small plant for that price and everybody knows that it can't. The state house will not use to exceed 2,000 gallons a day the year round. That costs 30 cents a day. To put in and run a gasoline engine to pump the water will cost three or four times as much. The gasoline to run the engine will cost more than the city would furnish the water for. But Joe Burns must have a rake-off of some kind for helping in carrying the state and so a useless well is to be bored and a constant cost to the taxpayer for years to come indulged in. That is the kind of work the redeemers are engaged in all around. That is the sort of redemption that the republican farmers so much admire.

THAT SHIP SUBSIDY

Minister Conger at the dinner given in New York took occasion to give Mark Hanna's ship subsidy a boost. The same paper that brought the report of his speech contained accounts of the formation of a ship-building trust. It includes the Newport News

company, the Union Iron Works of San Francisco, the Bath Iron Works and the Hyde Windlass company of Bath, Me.; Lewis Nixon's Crescent Shipyard and the James L. Moore & Sons company of Elizabeth, N. J., and the Canda Manufacturing company of Carteret, N. J.

According to the prospectus which has been issued this new trust will have a capacity for building 380,000 tons a year and is to be capitalized for \$65,000,000. All the yards which have gone into the trust, it is stated on good authority, could be duplicated for less than \$10,000,000. If this new trust can make dividends on stock that has been watered 600 per cent, the same man will inquire what necessity is there to further subsidize it by taxation.

Everything points to the probability that at the next session of congress Mark Hanna will put through his subsidy steal. There never was such a barefaced thing attempted in the country before. Ships are now built of iron and steel and the steel trust is sending its products to the old world and selling them at a lower price than they can be made there. To ask for a tariff and then a subsidy for the benefit of these men is the most barefaced fraud that the world ever beheld. That does not trouble Hanna any. The bigger the fraud the more certain he feels of accomplishing it.

When one reflects upon the horrors that exist in connection with our civilization, it makes any decent man feel like wanting to emigrate to some other planet where the trusts do not run the government and where they do not set up a smirking hypocrite to rule over the people. The maternity hospitals and the baby farms, the all-night, all-day and all-Sunday saloons, backed up by Denison's policy shops that exist in Omaha by the grace of the republican party, would make a man despair of the state if it were not for the same, sensible and moral population that inhabit the country and live upon farms. Why any farmer can bring himself into political association with this republican gang of thieves and gamblers is past comprehension.

It is authoritatively stated that only five per cent of the carrying power of the Western Union wires and labor force employed by the trust is utilized. Ninety-five per cent is always idle. Yet that mullet-headed concern keeps up its enormous charges when a reduction of one-half in price would double its income by increasing the amount of business. A trust is a hog and in many instances has no more sense than a hog. The Western Union has bought

up and suppressed all the patent improvements in telegraphy for many years. When this epidemic of partisan insanity passes away, these things will be looked at from a different standpoint.

The sane men and women of this nation will find some way, without interfering with religious beliefs or the freedom of the individual, to prevent such fanaticism as resulted in the death of a woman in Chicago from bleeding, when any reputable physician would have stopped the hemorrhage within a few moments. The fanatics relied solely upon prayer and the woman died.

Bixby seems to be just as crazy as Rosewater. Listen to him:

"A few years ago it was predicted with the most solemn assurance that the gold standard would plunge the country into irretrievable disaster and under that same standard the country has been flourishing more abundantly than ever before."

With over a thousand millions of paper and silver in circulation and more silver being coined and more paper being issued, to talk about the gold standard is proof positive that Bix is afflicted with delusions.

The Chicago weekly report issued by the board of health is so different from the common run of such documents that it deserves a notice. It can rightly be classed with the best literature of the day. It is interesting to all classes of persons. If doctors everywhere would drop their technical expressions and use plain common sense English it would be a blessing both to the profession and the people at large. The death rate last year in Chicago was 14.68 per thousand, while in Boston it was 20.82.

A republican writes a letter to the editor of The Independent which he winds up by saying: "The course you are pursuing will bring you neither fame nor wealth." Does he suppose that any sane man ever become a reform editor because he wanted fame and wealth. Not much. We do it for the satisfaction there is in hammering the gold standard lunatics and poking fun at the mullet heads. There is more satisfaction in that than being worth a million dollars or in having a big funeral and a tomb stone a hundred feet high.

The question of right and wrong, principles, honorable sentiments, everything of that sort, have been eliminated from the policies of this government of McKinley and the most revolting doctrines have taken their place. Trade, conquest, glory, military, pageants, corruption, deceit, hypocrisy have taken the place of the noble sentiments of the men who founded, built up and defended this government. On with the dance. Sam Jones says hell isn't half a mile away and the sooner we get there the sooner the inevitable end will come.

The American Economist has come to the conclusion that reciprocity treaties are unconstitutional. It has become so excited over the general demand that American consumers shall not be compelled to pay twice as much for American goods as foreigners have to pay, that the next thing it will do will be to declare that any discussion of the Dingley tariff is unconstitutional. It should remain calm. Let it remember that the great American mullet head delights to pay three or four dollars more for a plow than the same plow is sold for after it has been transported all the way to Russia.

A few of the New York ministers got up enough courage last Sunday to call the speculations on Wall street "gambling." That is a great step forward. When the populists called it gambling and wanted a law passed preventing the selling of stocks that were not in the hands of the seller and which the buyer never expected or wanted to get, these same ministers, or at least one of them, denounced populism as anarchy and socialism, showing that he was as ignorant of anarchy and socialism as he was of populism. The Independent congratulates the New York ministers on their attainments of courage and their advance in ethics.

GONE COMPLETELY DAFT
Governor Savage will soon have to prepare a room out at the asylum for the occupancy of the editor of the Bee. He grows wilder every day. In the Bee of last Saturday he talked after the following fashion:

"There never was a time in the history of the United States when the tillers of the soil have been more prosperous than they are today. The enormous surplus of grain has been marketed at higher prices than had been realized for many years and the raising of cattle, sheep and hogs has been more profitable within the past three years than for many previous decades."

And then he says the cause of it is "the stability of our money standard!" Think of that! The "stability" of the purchasing power of money has never had such a shaking up since the civil war as it has experienced during the last two years. A gold dollar



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HOW PERUNA MAKES STRONG NERVES.

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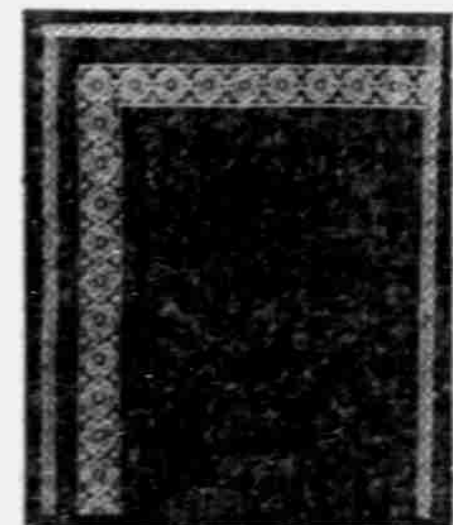
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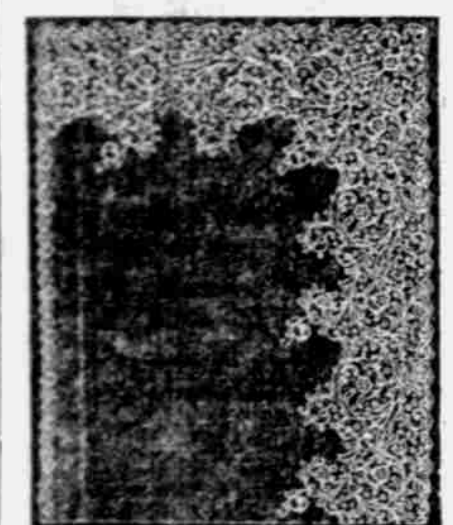
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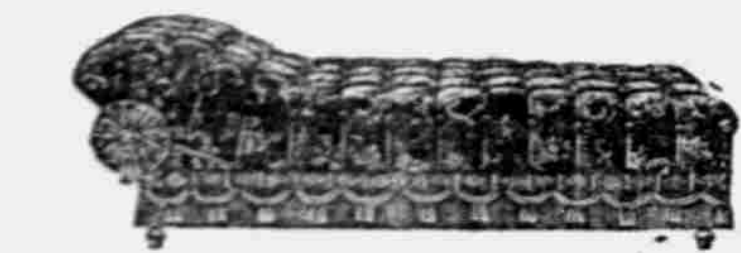
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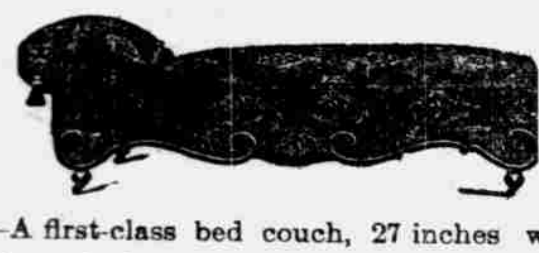
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