

WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

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PARTISAN -- PROGRESS

Mr. Clark Perkins, erstwhile secretary of the railway commission by reason of having rendered valiant party service as secretary of the republican state central committee, and now editor of the Aurora Republican, claims to be a "progressive." While not combatting his claims to being a "progressive" we are prepared to insist that his "progressive" tendencies do not incline him to be any the less unfair as a partisan.

Under the caption of "Morehead's Reactionary Record" the Aurora Republican gives utterance to a number of statements that are wholly without foundation, utterly destitute of truth, and not warranted in the editorial columns of even the most violently partisan newspaper—much less a newspaper whose editor claims to represent progressive thought.

"Mr. Morehead," says the Aurora Republican, "belongs to that faction of the democratic party which represents the corporations and does whatever the corporations want."

From the ex parte decision of the biased Aurora Republican we appeal to Morehead's lifetime record as a citizen beloved of his neighbors and trusted by those who know him best, and always known to be enlisted upon the side of the people. We'll take the decision of the people of Richardson county, where Morehead has lived for more than a quarter of a century—regardless of their party affiliations—before we will take the decision of the Aurora Republican.

"He proved this," continues the Aurora Republican, "when he lined up with those senators who did everything in their power to defeat the initiative and referendum."

Morehead did not attempt to defeat the initiative and referendum. He was pledged to support that measure. He did not agree with all the provisions of the bill drawn by the direct legislation league—but neither did the editor of Will Maupin's Weekly, and this editor was fighting for the initiative and referendum when the editor of the Aurora Republican was being pinned up instead of buttoned up. Morehead voted for the measure as it now appears on the statute books.

"Morehead was picked as the candidate of the brewers and other liquor interests," continues the Aurora Republican.

But the Republican has even less warrant for that statement than for its untrue statement that Morehead is a corporation tool. There are those who denounce as "tools of the liquor interests" all men who worship not at the shrine of prohibition or become frenzied in support of every fanatical proposition to "destroy King Alcohol." Morehead is no man's man, as his neighbors of a quarter of a century have testified time and again. This newspaper happens to know, personally, of two brewers who were violently opposed to Morehead's nomination, and it has never heard it charged that any brewers were active in his support.

"No man," continues the Aurora Republican, "ever served in the legislature whose record was more the record of a corporation agent than Morehead."

No partisan newspaper recorded in Nebraska newspaperdom ever made a statement more false, nor one that is so easily refuted by the records themselves. For thirty years the legislature of Nebraska was republican session after session. And for thirty years a riot of graft, corruption and corporation dictation prevailed. When honest Nebraskans revolted and turned the republican party out, those in revolt found that men like John Morehead had always been fighting these evils, and Morehead was not compelled to change either principle or party affiliation in order to be in accord with the men who had revolted against corporation dictation and control. That is history vs. the partisan misrepresentations of the Aurora Republican.

"Lee Herdman was Morehead's intimate advisor and campaign manager in the late democratic contest," declares the Aurora Republican.

"The short and ugly word" is best applied to that statement. Morehead managed his own campaign, made it openly and above

board, made no promises or pledges, and frankly stated his position on all questions of public interest.

"In his letter to Morehead," continues the Aurora Republican, "Metcalfe suggested that a fight be made for certain well defined reforms. Morehead could not answer this letter until he had held a consultation with Lee Herdman and other corporation advisors. Then he answered it with a lot of glittering generalities."

Morehead's answer is a matter of record, and this newspaper is quite willing to put that answer alongside the Republican's silly charge of "glittering generalities" and let unprejudiced citizens decide for themselves. The charge that Morehead couldn't answer until he had advised with "Herdman and other corporation advisors" is easily disproved by testimony that would be accepted in any court in the land. The Aurora Republican seems to think highly of Mr. Metcalfe—and well it may, for he is one of the best citizens Nebraska has or ever has had. We gather from its eulogies of Mr. Metcalfe that it regrets its inability to support him for governor, and we have no hesitancy in advancing the opinion that the Aurora Republican will be a long time waiting before it can support a republican gubernatorial candidate who is Metcalfe's equal in many respects. And if the Republican is so positive that Mr. Metcalfe is square and honest and a genuine reformer, what will it say in reply to this newspaper's assertion that Metcalfe saw Morehead's letter before it was made public, and gave to it his hearty approval?

"From his record," says the Aurora Republican, "we have reason to believe that when it comes to stockyards legislation he will take Frank Ransom's advice; when it comes to insurance legislation he will take the advice of J. H. Harley of Lincoln and other insurance lobbyists who are fighting all insurance reform."

Well, from the evidences presented by the Aurora Republican of the unfair and bitterly partisan frame of mind of its editor, we are prepared to believe that if the republican national convention declares that the moon is made of green cheese, the Aurora Republican will be found denouncing astronomers as being either fools, dupes, or tools of the yellow cheese trust.

Now a few words in closing, and relative to the Aurora Republican's charge that Morehead is a brewery agent and a tool of the liquor interests; that he is the "brewery candidate." Will Maupin's Weekly was the first Nebraska newspaper to mention John H. Morehead for the governorship, and it advocated his nomination. The man who charges this newspaper or its editor with being either in sympathy with or supporters of the "liquor interests," simply lies or speaks ignorantly. The man who edits this newspaper has been a newspaper man for thirty years, and has edited newspapers in a half-dozen Nebraska cities, and in a couple of Missouri cities. Every newspaper he has controlled and edited has persistently and consistently opposed the license system. He has suffered in friendships and in pocket because of it. He wouldn't support a "tool of the liquor interests" for any office, but he has yet to be convinced that men who do not agree with him on this liquor question are all "tools of the liquor interests." He leaves that to men who find it easier and more convenient to let others do their thinking for them. And he looks further than a party label before he supports any man for any office. Mr. Perkins, editor of the Aurora Republican, won something of a reputation for being a leader in the revolt against corporation rule in the republican party. That revolt occurred in 1907-8. The editor of Will Maupin's Weekly beat the editor of the Aurora Republican to that revolt by something like fourteen years.

We frankly admit that Will Maupin's Weekly is not up to specification this week. Its editor is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, and the week the association meets is his annual outing. Then he foregoes with friends, cats to his fill, shakes hands until his arm aches, talks "shop" and seldom goes to bed until it is all over. And while the convention is in progress he doesn't care a rap if his paper never gets out. This week is the week and the paper shows it. Next week we are going to resume the old ways, and for twelve months straight we are going to whoop it up for Nebraska.

MEN AND MATTERS

In his address to the graduating class of the University of Omaha Governor Aldrich permitted himself to cast some reflections upon the University of Nebraska—something a man less given to hasty words would have avoided, even though he may think as the governor thinks. It certainly was bad politics for the governor to sneeringly refer to the University of Nebraska as a place where they "give degrees for taking a course in spring poetry or agriculture." And it was certainly untrue in the sense that the governor expressed himself. Will Maupin's Weekly is mighty glad that the University of Nebraska is not teaching "religious principles." Already we have too many mothers and fathers seeking to shift their responsibilities to the shoulders of instructors in our public schools and our colleges and universities; too many fathers and mothers who delude themselves into the belief that they have performed their duty when they send their children to Sunday school one hour a week. The University of Nebraska has no business talking "religion." Its mission is to fit young men and women for the battle of life, and when it teaches them this and teaches them to play the game square and honestly, it has done its duty. What this country needs is less of religious discussion and morality dope in public, and more of it in the homes.

If Rev. Kid Wedge of Genoa fails to go on down the line and whip the stuffing out of a lot of muttonheaded business men, we'll lose faith in him. A year or so ago Rev. Mr. Wedge was assaulted by some roughs, put up to the job by a few "business men" who had resented some of the minister's sermons. Having been a professional pugilist in his earlier days the reverend gentleman whipped his assailants. Then he ferreted out the men who had employed them, and proceeded to distribute a few more black eyes. He then resigned his pastorate and went elsewhere, leaving his wife at home. Misfortune followed and Mrs. Wedge had to sacrifice her household goods. Rev. Mr. Wedge returned to be at home when a little stranger was ushered in, and despite his pleading to delay he was arrested almost before the little stranger could be welcomed, and thrown into jail at Fullerton. The arrest was made late Saturday night so as to make the giving of a bond difficult if not impossible. But friends rallied and got him out. Then Rev. Mr. Wedge hunted up the attorney, who seems to have lent himself to the minister's enemies, and when the minister was through with his argument the attorney was on his way to the hospital. We doff our hat to Rev. "Kid" Wedge. We hope he goes on down the line and whips a frazzle every sneaking son-of-a-gun who is trying to hound him out of the country.

Every lover of clean politics and every defender of popular government is praying that Lorimer be unseated. Every senator who condones the methods that resulted in Lorimer's election by voting to retain him in the senate should be spotted and retired from public life at the earliest opportunity. The unseating of Lorimer will be final notice to the corrupt political bosses that their reign is over forever and a day.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a letter from Hon. I. D. Evans of Kenesaw. Mr. Evans writes with his usual frankness and clearness, but we are compelled to hold over until next week a few comments of our own upon the matters mentioned by Mr. Evans. But we seize this occasion to deny, most emphatically, Mr. Evans' assertion that Will Maupin's Weekly looks upon the direct primary as an "abomination." We have never denounced the principle. On the contrary we have always favored it. But we have said, and we repeat, that the direct primary law of Nebraska, as now framed, is not correct in application and provocative of irregularities that are as bad as those of the old-fashioned convention.

Col. Lafe Young of Des Moines admits that "standpatism" is as dead as Julius Caesar. Misled by Taft's victory in Iowa, Young thought he could win a senatorial nomination as a standpatter. He didn't come within gunshot of it. Now he admits that progressive principles are all right. The Des Moines Capital as a progressive newspaper will look strange, but it will be welcome, just the same.

We regret more than we can express the indignity heaped upon the Nebraska newspaper men who had been invited to make address at the Commercial Club banquet last Wednesday evening. That these guests of Lincoln's great commercial organization should have been ignored by a lot of self-seeking politicians anxious to get into the limelight is to be regretted. We want our visiting editorial brethren to know that a majority of Lincoln people deprecate this rudeness. Just as soon as possible to arrange for it a meeting will be called of representative Lincoln people and the speakers so rudely ignored will be given an opportunity to get those thrilling addresses out of their systems.

The "safe and sane" Fourth idea is all right. We ought to get away from the barbaric cannon cracker and the deadly toy pistol. But we still insist upon the bonfire, the anvil, the skyrocket. We want the old-time float representing the sisterhood of states, with Columbia perched on top. We want the Declaration of Independence read, and we want a good speaker. We who live in the cities do not have the opportunities of our "country friends" to spend the Fourth of July as it should be spent.

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