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MEN AND MATTERS

Of course John H. Morehead would not accept the insolent and insultingly worded "challenge" issued by Chester H. Aldrich. And there are numerous reasons for the declination. First, it is a waste of time to debate with a man who is not hampered by facts and who can manufacture statistics offhand. Second, Chester H. Aldrich can not lay the plans and specifications for "progressiveism" and expect men to defend themselves against his charge that they are "reactionaries," horse thieves, hypocrites and plunderers because they do not agree with said plans and specifications. If the voters of Nebraska want a platform attraction for governor they've got it. If they want a level-headed, progressive, competent chief executive to attend to the state's enormous business, they have the chance to secure one by electing John H. Morehead.

In the death of Galen J. Richmond, former editor of the Minden Courier, the newspaper profession loses a member that reflected credit upon it, and the forces of democracy lose an able and ever faithful champion. "Gale" Richmond was a militant democrat, a friend to be trusted, an opponent always fair, and a citizen who never lost opportunity to work for the best interests of his state and his community.

"We stand at Armageddon and we battle for the Lord," declares Roosevelt. But it was Paul, a man greater even than Roosevelt, who said: "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal." And we have a faint suspicion that Dixon, Flinn, McCormick, et al., are not forging any scriptural weapons for Rooseveltian use.

The Lincoln Journal continues to misrepresent John H. Morehead's attitude towards the initiative and referendum. But it cannot evade the fact that Senator Morehead voted for the law as it is now before the people for approval. Nor can it disguise the fact that for political reasons it, and other republicans of its ilk, pretending to be wholeheartedly for the initiative and referendum, endeavored to "put the democratic legislature in a hole" by forcing it to submit an initiative and referendum proposition that would be open to attack.

Addressing the State Federation of Labor convention at Fremont Governor Aldrich carefully described the kind of a man the wage earners ought to vote for—taking particular care to describe himself as he thinks himself to be. He then described the kind of a man they ought not to vote for, taking particular care to describe Morehead as Aldrich would have the people believe him to be. Which reminds us that Morehead is a producer, not a parasite; and that he has paid labor \$100 for every cent his opponent has paid to labor.

The sympathy of every Nebraskan will go out to W. J. Taylor in the double affliction that has recently befallen him. One talented daughter the victim of disease, and another daughter, happily married, a suicide through grief, is a blow indeed—such a blow as no one can understand who has not himself "passed under the rod."

The parent reform of all present day political reforms in Nebraska was the Australian ballot law, enacted by an anti-republican legislature. The only labor legislation Nebraska has had in two decades was enacted by a democratic legislature. The only effort at tax reform in two decades was successfully made by a democratic legislature. It remained for a democratic legislature to enact an initiative and referendum law. For a quarter of a century no republican legislature took a forward step in liquor legislation, although the g. o. p. has always claimed to be the party of temperance reform, and has always denounced democracy as the "whisky party." A democratic legislature gave us the first forward step in this matter. The state's floating indebtedness was never reduced a dollar by a republican administration. On the contrary each year saw both the tax rate and the indebtedness growing larger. Democrat-populist administrations reduced the floating indebtedness and the tax rate. Under the last democratic administration no state warrant was ever registered for future payment because of lack of funds in the state treasury. It has happened repeatedly under the present republican administration. There never was a riot or a scandal in prison management under a democratic administration. Under republican administration the state prison was the center of a seething mass of political corruption, and under the present republican administration the scene of a saturnalia of homicides and disorder. Bombast and bluster, pretense and Pecksniffian posing, will not blind the people to the truth.

Mr. Morehead proffers a question that Governor Aldrich debate with himself. By the side of the Aldrichian pretense of superior political virtue Mr. Morehead places the Aldrich effort to grab off a lot of perquisites in open violation of the constitution.

Speaking of candidates—a man may well be judged by the esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens and neighbors. We'll venture the assertion that Morehead will get more votes in Richardson county than Aldrich will get in Butler county, and we'll allow for any difference there may be in the total vote of each county.

THAT GAS CONTROVERSY.

The powers that be of the gas company refuse to compromise as long as there is any controversy over the legality of the company's franchise. It seems that the only thing to do is to go ahead with the suit to enforce the dollar gas ordinance, and it doesn't take much of a mathematician to figure out that the gas company is going to win, even if it finally loses the case—and there hasn't been much to date to fill gas consumers with hope that the city will win. It is estimated that the excess charges collected by the company now amount to over \$300,000. At five per cent this amounts to \$15,000 a year, and is an item that the gas company management is not overlooking. It is better than issuing bonds for \$300,000 and paying 5 per cent interest on them. It does seem that there ought to be some way of settling this vexed question amicably and without the expense of a long and costly litigation.

Object Lessons in Thrift

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