The Sioux County Journal.

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF SIOUX COUNTY.

L. J. Simmons, - - Editor.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1897.

Spain has made a proposition to Cuba in which numerous reforms are promised but there is no likelihood that the Cubans will accept anything short of absolute freedom. In the proposition Spain admits that war exists. That opens the way for the United States to recognize the belligerancy of the Cubans and such recognition by this government is likly soon to occur.

The political complexion of the members of the legislatures of various states is an added proof of the fact that the populist party is not a factor and that fusion does not fuse to any great extent. The following shows the legislative strength of the parties: Republicans, 3,493; democrats, 2,209; populists, 520; fusionists, 214. Out of the 6,435 members of state legislatures the republicans have a majority of 570—50 more than the entire strength of the populists.

The report of the mining clone in the Black Hills shows that the value of the gold taken out during the year 1896 was $6,178,675, an increase over the preceding year of $1,268,676. The prospects are that the gold output for the year 1897 will exceed that of any previous year in the history of that country. It has been claimed by many that the yield of gold from the Black Hills has but commenced and the recent finds lead many to think the contention is correct.

The committee of the house of representatives on finance, ways and means has recommended the appropriation of $150,000 for the trans-Mississippi exposition. It seems that there is a good deal of opposition to the state appropriating anything toward the enterprise. It certainly seems that the amount named is as little as it should be made. If the exposition was be in another state and Nebraska was to be asked to go there it would be a little more reasonable for objection to be made, but when other states are making liberal appropriations to bring exhibits to Nebraska, it would hardly be the proper thing for this state to act parsimoniously.

Representative Sheldon has introduced a bill providing for the sinking of three test wells for artesian water by the state. The complete contents of the bill is not known, but the subject is an important one to the entire state and especially to this part of the state and it is hoped that it covers the subject fully and will be enacted and the tests made. If artesian water can be obtained for irrigation purposes it would do more than any other one thing to settle and build up the western part of the state, and if flowing wells can be had which only yield sufficient water for stock they would make much land good for grazing which now do no good to any one on account of their distance from water.

The past few days has witnessed the collapse of two great trusts. The bolt trust and the trust which has for years controlled the freight traffic east of Chicago and St. Louis to the Atlantic seaboard. While the bolt trust was a large concern it paled into insignificance when compared with the freight association whose capital was the greatest combination of financial resources ever made in the United States. Its passing is another proof of the fact that trusts, no matter how well they may be organized, will go to pieces of their own weight. Time and again have the public had occasion to note this fact. So far natural causes have done more to break up trusts than have the lawmakers and courts.

THE JOURNAL wishes to commend Representative Sheldon for the position he took when his party associate committed the outrage of unseating the four republicans from Douglass county in order to seat men in their place who would help to put two fusionist judges on the supreme bench when there is no law for doing so. Sheldon opposed his party in its high-handed work and is entitled to credit therefor. If the legislature persists in carrying into effect the unwarranted scheme it has on foot and the governor prostitutes the position of chief executive by aiding the work, it is hoped that the law-respecting people of the state will impeach every man who, having taken an oath to perform the duties of his office according to law, willfully and knowing violates that oath. [illegible] are servants of the people [illegible] to administer the law, and [illegible] may consider the laws [illegible] them.

Senator Peffer, the great populist reformer of Kansas, retires from office a rich man. Six years ago he was elected to the United States senate and at that time he was as poor as the mouse who resides in a church is reputed to be, or the turkey which was the property of Job. It looks very much as if Peffer was a reformer for revenue only.

The York *Republican* last week published a letter which had been received by the editor of that paper from a Denver outfit offering to purchase railroad transportation which he got in exchange for advertising and in speaking of it the recipient of the letter says that the fact that newspaper men have business with such "agencies" accounts for the fact that publishers are treated as transportation thieves by the railroads with whom they have advertising contracts. It is the dishonest ones which makes it necessary for the railroad companies to treat all as thieves in order to protect themselves. So long as the contracts signed by the publishers contain a clause providing that the transportation is not transferable the party making it should live up to it. The publisher who violates it should be ostracised by the profession.

Some of the members of the majority in the house of representatives seriously objected to the prayer recently offered in their behalf by the chaplain of that body, so Col. Tim Sedgwick of the York *Times* submits the following as a substitute: "Oh, Lord! Shut your eyes, stop up your ears and hold your nose until this pop legislature adjourns. Bot on general principles suspend the execution of the just laws in Nebraska for a few months. Give us hard times, poor crops, and general discontent. Keep the people in a condition of mind where they can be easily fooled and don't care if they are. If you will give us a chance we will show you some samples of treachery, lying and general cussedness that will put Judas, Annanias and the devil on the hog train for ever and ever. Amen."

The proposition to make a law which will prevent the holder of a mortgage from obtaining a deficiency judgment against the maker of the mortgage for the amount unpaid after the property has been sold on decree of the court, is calling out a good deal of comment. In substance the deficiency judgment is but little better than the old law providing that a delinquent debtor should be imprisoned. A man gives a mortgage to secure the payment of a certain sum. His creditor considers the security good at the time of making the loan, and the honesty or ability of the borrower to pay cuts no figure. The time for settlement comes and the mortgagor is unable to comply with the terms of the mortgage and foreclosure follows. In nine cases out of ten it is the misfortune rather than the fault of the one in default and when the creditor has taken the property—the pound of flesh, so to speak—that should cancel the debt. If the debtor could not meet his obligation when he had the use of the property and his credit unimpaired, is it reasonable to expect him to be able to do so, deprived of the property and his credit destroyed by a deficiency judgment hanging over him? When a man seeks and obtains credit on his individuality—his personal honesty and ability to pay—and then attempts to evade payment, he should be compelled to make his promise good or the record show against him, but when he gives the property—the pound of flesh—the creditor should not be allowed to drain him of his life-blood by keeping a deficiency judgment standing against him.

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