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SOME CURT COMMENT ON DAILY TOPICS

The narrowness of the republican majorities on all state officers below governor are an indication of what might have happened to the g. o. p. if the brewery-booze managers had kept their fingers out of the political pie instead of trying to run the democratic party. All the brewery-booze managers succeeded in doing was to arouse so much animosity that they will have all they can do preserving their business, without finding any time to try and manage political parties.

The county optionists spent so much time in denouncing "Dahlmanism" that they overlooked to a large extent the necessity of electing county option members of the legislature. They succeeded in defeating Dahlman by 18,000 majority, but they did not succeed in electing a county option legislature. There is always danger in becoming too hysterical.

It has been suggested to us that we advise the Douglas county delegation in the house of representatives the wisdom of selecting seats convenient to some capacious exit. This in case some officer of the law appears with an extradition warrant or an indictment from a grand jury.

Mr. Aldrich admits, frankly and freely, his debt of gratitude to Richard L. Metcalfe. This is meet proper. Metcalfe was a tower of strength to Aldrich in the recent campaign. And the gentlemen who were informing "Met" that he would have to come back into the democratic ranks as a private are now quite willing to permit "Met" to come back any old way he prefers, just so he comes back.

Our compliments to Rev. Luther P. Ludden, Lawson G. Brian and one or two other members having in charge the normal schools of the state: Permit us to make you acquainted with Prof. Joseph W. Crabtree, superintendent-elect of public instruction. Crabtree has come back.

Speaking of "presidential possibilities" brought out by the recent election—what's the matter with Gilbert M. Hitchcock? To be elected democratic United States senator by a majority of 22,000 in a state that elected a republican governor by 18,000 is some running, isn't it? And isn't it equal to Harmon's victory in Ohio, or Wilson's victory in New Jersey? It's a little early to prognosticate on 1912, but we advise the president makers to keep an eye on Hitchcock.

The old familiar Bryan obituary is going the rounds of the plutocratic press. It has the same old ring. It will have the same old answer. The first thing the obituary writers know the corpse will rise up and kick them in the brains, thereby seriously ruffling the seats of their trousers. And when Bryan does die and is buried, the obituary writers for generations to come are going to be kept busy writing the sad farewell words over "Bryanism."

Funny, isn't it, that every time there is a stir in economic circles or in industrial circles, those pesky socialists are charged with fomenting all the trouble. A busy lot, those socialists.

Fred D. Warren, editor of the Appeal to Reason, has been fined \$1,000 and sentenced to six months in the federal prison for offering a reward for the kidnaping of Ex-Governor Taylor and his return to Kentucky. It was to have been expected. The men who kidnaped Moyer and Hayward were never punished. The man who merely suggests the kidnaping of an indicted fugitive from justice is fined and imprisoned. The man who thinks that this sort of thing will kill socialism merely admits that his head is full of addled eggs. Warren as a martyr to the cause will exert a far greater influence than Warren the editorial mouthpiece of a

propaganda. The Wagerworker will be one of a hundred newspapers that really believe in free speech and a free press to pay Warren's fine.

What's the use of squandering \$5,000 for a bond for the treasurer of Nebraska? Just enact a law making it a capital crime to embezzle state or county funds, and then hang the first offender. The state would not only save money, but it would save a lot of worry.

The election of Hitchcock to the senate rather blocks the senatorial ambitions of Victor Rosewater. And it is calculated to make Senator Brown a bit uneasy. When Hitchcock replaces Burket there will be two senators north of the Platte—which is not to be considered for long. True Kearney, while north of the Platte is only forty miles from the Kansas line, but it's north of the Platte, and that settles it. Brown will have to go or precedent of forty years smashed to smithereens. Being a lawyer Brown can not throw any rocks at "precedent." If a republican succeeds him what's the matter with Norris? And if a democrat succeeds him there is just one answer—Ashton C. Shallenberger.

Leo Matthews, private secretary to the governor and secretary of the democratic state committee, announced his candidacy for chief clerk of the house. Why not? Matthews has rendered splendid party service and is thoroughly capable. He is methodical, untiring and loyal. He has made good all along the line and is entitled to reward.

An east Lincoln man recently had three yards of sand dumped in front of his home, preparatory to building a sidewalk. Before he could use the sand, and while absent from his home, a force of Street Commissioners Hensley's men came along and graded the street. Instead of notifying the householder of their intentions and permitting him to move the sand, the graders distributed it over the street for three blocks. Hensley said he could do nothing; that the householder was liable to fine for not having a permit to dump the sand in the street, and that he was very sorry. The sand amounted to \$4.05, the annoyance to three times as much—and a citizen and taxpayer forced to lose it all by the actions of a lot of men without courtesy or commonsense working under the directions of a man who secured his office through the influence of organized labor and hasn't paid a dollar of union dues since he landed the job.

Will some one kindly set a date for a "tag day" for the benefit of the poor and unfortunate Lincoln Traction Company?

The superintendent of schools in Lincoln receives a salary of \$2,500 a year and has supervision over about 9,000 school children and about 140 teachers. The state superintendent receives a salary of \$2,000 a year and has supervision over 375,000 school children, 11,000 teachers, 7,000 schools and four normal schools. Lots of funny things in this country.

For instance, the state treasurer receives a salary of \$2,500 a year, and for that money he handles from \$5,000,000 to 7,000,000 a year twice over, invests a million or two of state money in securities for the permanent school fund, officiates on several boards, one being the board of purchase and supplies, and manages an office force of ten or twelve people. The president of a bank attending to that volume of business usually receives a salary of from \$7,500 to \$15,000 a year.

There are department managers in Omaha and Lincoln department stores who receive double the salaries paid the governor of Ne-