

circumstances is a much more powerful argument against our present judiciary system than Warren in the editorial chair could be.

The Capital Removal Organization is still busy. The real estate boomers and "hammermen" who are behind this move are having a lot of fun with themselves and causing no one any particular uneasiness, least of all the people of Lincoln. Nebraskans who understand the situation will not work up any particular enthusiasm over the removal project, well knowing that it had its inception in a desire to "punish Lincoln" for her attitude on certain moral and social questions, and taken up by men who desire to inflate the value of real estate by having people believe that the state house is very likely to be moved to their immediate vicinity. A half million people will have to settle in Nebraska west of Hall county before any city will be more easily accessible as a capital than Lincoln is now. A circle one hundred and fifty miles in diameter of which Lincoln is the center, would take in three-fourths of the state's present population. In other words, three-fourths of the people in Nebraska live within seventy-five miles of Lincoln. So far as a somewhat extensive observation reveals, this is true of no other capital city east of the Rocky Mountains. The capital movers should spend a decade or two in rigging up some sort of a disguise for their ulterior motives.

The plan so successfully used in the sale of Texas lands ought to work equally well or better with Nebraska land, the only difference being that the size of the Nebraska tract would of necessity have to be somewhat larger. There are in Nebraska something like 12,000,000 acres of fertile but untilled land, much of it lying in large tracts and held by land speculators. There are thousands of people yearning to get onto the land, and Nebraska needs several hundred thousand more people upon her soil. As soon as Will Schwind and John Maher get through with their big land deals in Texas we would like to see them tackle the same sort of a game with Nebraska land. If they were one-half as successful in Nebraska as they have been in their Valley Fruit Farm and Garden Company deal, they would make good money and at the same time confer a wonderful benefit upon Nebraska.

Just as we warned City Clerk Dan'l Butler of Omaha last week, Governor Aldrich comes right back with what looks like the proof. When a city ward casts more votes than the government census shows male inhabitants thereof, the indications are that there is something wrong about the voting. And the issuance of certificates in blank, amply proved by the governor, is so palpably illegal that we doubt if even City Clerk Dan'l Butler will have the nerve to defend the practice.

Governor Aldrich is clearly right when he demands something be done along reform lines in the matter of registration and voting, but it is to be hoped that the measures he asks for will be well considered. He is asking for something revolutionary, this matter of allowing the governor to appoint registrars, to appoint special election police and transfer election officials from one precinct to another. Especially is it to be hoped that his suggestion about special state police for elections will receive no consideration whatever. Various sections of the country have had experience with that sort of thing, and never satisfactory. Federal soldiers at the polls in the south and John I. Davenport's special election police in New York created enough trouble to last this country several generations. Instead of curing election evils in New York, Davenport's constables added a lot more.

Holding that Governor Aldrich has proved his case despite the strenuous declamations of City Clerk Dan's Butler, we are now waiting to hear what Dan'l has to say. That he will have something to say is not to be doubted.

Any land congress, or conservation congress, or any other kind of a western congress, that is organized and then put in the attitude of opposing Gifford Pinchot is going to be discounted in the minds of the people before it gets well started. The opposition to the Pinchot policies comes from men whose schemes of gigantic profit at the expense of the whole people have been thwarted by the gifted forester. Prof. Condra is to be congratulated for having nipped an anti-Pinchot scheme in the bud when the land congress was organized at Omaha this week.

"Joe" Burns dropped into Lincoln the first of the week, and immediately things legislative took on a more familiar aspect. The spectacle of the ever-smiling "Joe" perambulating the corridors of the state house and putting his arms around the legislators, is calculated to make us all reminiscent.

Now if Church Howe and Tom Majors would happen along on the same day and hobnob with the members a bit, wouldn't things look natural? The story of the Howe-Majors feud is an old one—so old that it will be new to the younger generation of poli-

ticians, and for that reason it is going to be retold in these columns next week. It will be worth reading, too.

Naturally enough, Senator Norris Brown is taking an active part in this new "progressive league." The returns from the Nebraska election last fall were calculated to make the junior—soon-to-be-senior—senator understand that "insurgency," or "progressiveness," whichever you are mind to call it, is the thing in Nebraska, and that swinging on the fence will no longer suffice. Norris' big vote in the Fifth was also calculated to make Senator Brown sit up and take notice. Weeks ago this newspaper predicted that Senator Brown would begin insurging to beat the band, and already the first proof of the truth of the prediction has come to hand.

We regret to note the absence of Senator Burkett's name from the list of senatorial members of the "progressive league." Senator Beveridge's name is there, and Senator Beveridge was also defeated for re-election.

If the formation of the "progressive league" means anything at all it means radical realignment of men and parties. The men pushing that league can not expect the support of the Payne-Aldrich-Cannon cohorts any more than the "Bryanites" ever expected the hearty and honest co-operation of the Parkers, Belmonts, Murphys, Connors and others of that ilk. The rumpus that was pulled off in the democratic party in 1896 will not be a marker to the one that is going to be pulled off within the republican ranks between now and 1916.

What the Office Boy Says

Me clothes ain't as fashunable as some w'ot de kids o' my age is wearin', but I bought an' paid f'r mine.

P'rhaps me woiges would be bigger if sassiety didn't haf t' keep so many fellers busy makin' a easy livin'.

Me best goil ain't much at de pianner playin' game, but de biskits she makes are reg'lar Mendelshon sonaters.

I'm achin' t' meet up wid some people dat'll take more intrust in me present an' not so much in me future.

I reckon de reason de men ain't marryin' is dat de goils worth havin' don't want t' give up good jobs an' take de risk.

Folks is allus advisin' us woikin' men t' buy homes, an' de tax collector is waitin' round de corner t' soak us if we do it.

When dad was sick last fall de members o' his church prayed f'r his recov'ry. His union sent de secretary aroun' wid de sick benefit in cold cash.

Strikes me dat a lot o' employers is tryin' t' cover up their desire t' git boys t' do the woik by hollerin' dat de unions is deprivin' boys o' their chance t' learn trades.

De goil dat's been woikin' all day in a fac'ry or store is de only one dat gits me seat in de car when I starts home t' me eats. De dame w'ot's been shoppin' c'n hang on t' de trap.

When dad's gas bill is over due he gits notus t' pay up or it'll be shut off. Wish dere was some way o' shuttin' off de gas dat a lot o' would-be statesmen is usin' these days.

De boss sent me up t' de state house wid some proofs de other day. I say a lot o' husky blacksmiths, carpenters, printers, plumbers an' bricklayers bein' spoiled by makin' half-baked lawyers o' dem.

When a lot o' women git together dey sip a cup o' tea and nibble a bit o' cake. When a lot o' men git together dey fill up on a course dinner, tell stories courser dan de dinner, an' swill 'steen kinds o' booze. Yet dat same bunch of men would prob'ly say dat women ain't got sense enuf t' be trusted wid de ballot.

True of Oregon, True of Nebraska

The real owners of the land in Oregon are the people of Oregon. Back of every land title, no matter how yellow with age, is the power and right of * * * taxation. The sovereign state never can give more than a leasehold, call it what you will in redundancy of law. * * * The people of Oregon own the land of Oregon as long as the people are a free people and not dominated by some foreign power. If the people of Oregon conclude that it is foolish to collect rent from houses and jewelry the people can cease to do so, and can increase their rent levied upon the land values of their tenants. * * * It will be a great day when the holders of vast land values in city and country are told to pay more rent or vacate the premises.—Portland Labor Press.