

## REPUBLICAN INCOMPETENTS

Mr. Ellis Relates a Few Facts About the Beatrice Institution

In giving an account of their stewardship the populists have invariably followed the practice of telling the truth, while the republicans have never hesitated to tell a flat-footed lie if they considered it would help them. This was noticeable in the last campaign. The State Journal started out with a scandalous article regarding the home for the friendless during the superintendency of Mrs. C. S. Jones, remarkably chiefly for innuendo. One statement, however, was a point-blank lie, and the Journal "corrected" the "error" and "apologized" to Mrs. Jones. This was concerning the alleged purchase of a caddy of Battle Axe tobacco. But although the Journal "corrected" this "error," the republican state committee did not, and the week before election the country papers were filled with "boiler-plate" matter in which the same old lie was told about the purchase of Battle Axe tobacco by Mrs. Jones while superintendent at the home for the friendless.

The facts were that the tobacco had been purchased for the institution for feeble-minded at Beatrice when Dr. Lang was superintendent, and the Journal in its "apology" could hardly take time to make it decently for wondering "what they were doing with Battle Axe tobacco" at the Beatrice institution. Afterward the Journal's attention was called to the fact that during July and August, 1902, the present republican superintendent had bought at one time 16 pounds of Star tobacco and at another 12 pounds, but this was glossed over by saying that "other superintendents besides Dr. Lang had purchased tobacco for the institution."

The following letter is from a gentleman who is thoroughly conversant with the present administration of affairs at the Beatrice institution. It ought to open the eyes of some people who are prone to believe whatever they see in a republican paper—no matter how unreasonable, and disbelieve what a populist paper says—no matter how well sustained by the official records. Dr. Johnson has an appropriation \$20,000 greater than Dr. Lang had—and he is spending it right and left. Mr. Ellis' letter will give some idea of his "efficiency."

Editor Independent: In one of the stereotyped letters issued by the republican state central committee appears the statement that when the fusionists managed our state institutions "in utter disregard for the public good they portioned positions to political favorites and factions. Men were appointed for what good they had done the party, rather than for their fitness resulting in filling the institutions with incompetents and in many instances with public plunderers."

The writer knows a little about the past and present history of one of our state institutions—the one at Beatrice, and from what he knows about that, is much surprised at the effrontery, impudence and gall that is displayed in the assertions above quoted.

When the present superintendent of the Nebraska institution for feeble minded youth was appointed by Governor Dietrich, will any one dare deny that his appointment was brought about by political considerations and at the request of certain politicians of Swedish nationality and not on account of any particular fitness in the man for that important position. The important matter was the Swedish vote. The gentleman appointed was never heard of as having any superior qualification for the place then and his management of the institution now fails to show that two years of experience has added much fitness to his personality.

Reports have been given out quite frequently that inmates of the institution are running away from time to time and that no effort has ever been made by the officials to bring them back.

Complaints have been made by many of the farmers who live near the home that the inmates are allowed to run at large around the country and are a cause of considerable trouble and annoyance to the people they visit.

Another complaint that we have heard quite often is that the sexes are not properly segregated at the institution—that they are allowed to run together too much. An official of the place recently told the writer that "if this state of affairs is allowed to go on much longer the state will need another new cottage to take care of babies."

Reports of disharmony, wrangling and confusion has been constantly heard since the republicans took charge. Wrangling at one time between the superintendent and the ma-

tron, and then came a period of trouble and disagreement between the doctor and the steward which culminated in the resignation of the latter, who evidently was not willing that the state of Nebraska should foot the bill for repairing the phaeton of the former.

Talking about "filling the state institutions with incompetents and portioning the positions to political favorites" we cannot help thinking about our last state fair. Doubtless many of your readers who were there will remember that a display was made there of the handwork of the inmates of the Beatrice institution. That display, consisting of brushes, etc., was intended to create the impression that such industry has been carried on during the incumbency of Dr. Johnson. The people were expected to believe that all the credit for the proficiency of those unfortunate children belongs to the present republican administration. But the truth about the matter is that every brush that was on exhibition at the fair was made under the fustion administration. Not a single brush was made by any of the inmates since Dr. Johnson took charge.

The reason for this is found in the fact that the man appointed as carpenter and supervisor of the brush room at the institution does not know how to make a brush and worse than that he is not recognized as a carpenter nor is he considered skilled in any other line of mechanism by his acquaintances at Beatrice. So incompetent is the man that if even a summer house is needed at the place, a carpenter to build it must be hired from Beatrice.

Owing to the imbecility of the superintendent and the incompetency and lack of skill of his appointee, the brush industry at the institution was killed.

And those who are responsible for employing such incompetents to draw salaries and wages from the state, tell glibly about filling the institutions with incompetents. E. E. ELLIS, Beatrice, Neb.

## Kansas vs. Colorado

No, it isn't a football game or an interstate debate between collegians in claw-hammer coats and with hair and name parted in the middle. It is a debate, however, in court over one of the most important questions in recent years: irrigation rights against riparian rights. The San Francisco Call tells the story so well we reproduce it:

An interesting contest is now going on between the states of Kansas and Colorado over water rights in the Arkansas river. The river flows through Colorado into Kansas. Colorado asserts her right to use the water for irrigation. Kansas asserts riparian rights, and demands that Colorado permit the water to flow uninterrupted and undiminished past her arid lands to the lands of Kansas.

Kansas filed a complaint against Colorado, and Colorado filed a demurrer, which has recently been overruled, and now the case is to come up on its merits. The Denver Republican quotes the attorney general of Colorado as saying that his state would assert a new principle of law and seek to uphold it on the ground of public necessity. The Republican goes on to say: "The answer follows the overruling of the demurrer filed by Colorado to the complaint filed by the state of Kansas. The answer reviews the whole history of irrigation, but makes its chief point on the assertion that the right to irrigate takes precedence over the ancient riparian right. It asserts that little of the water of the Arkansas naturally reaches Kansas. On the contrary, it asserts, irrigation is really a help to Colorado's eastern neighbor, as the water taken from the river by farmers seeps back into the river again and carries further than it naturally would. The desert land act and numerous other acts of congress, including the irrigation act of the present year, are cited in support of the state's contention."

The doctrine that water once used for irrigation will seep back into its original river bed with such force as to carry further than it would have done had it been left to flow naturally is one that Colorado will probably have considerable difficulty in proving. It is one of the statements that are classed as "interesting if true." That, however, is a minor point. The feature of interest and of importance in the case is the contention of Colorado that irrigation rights are superior to riparian rights. That question affects the whole of the arid west. Upon its rightful solution depends the welfare of thousands today and many millions of that future day when the practice of a comprehensive system of irrigation shall have redeemed from the desert the broad acres that are now unfilled.

# STALLIONS

IAMS' October, 1902, importation of black Percherons, Belgians and Coachers was the largest ever made west of the Missouri River. His stallions of big size, quality, finish and extremely low prices are propositions that will make you his buyer. If you can pay cash or give bankable note, you will sure buy stallions of Iams. Only man in the United States that imported only black or bay stallions. He has just imported

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Shipped to New York by fast boat, then by Fargo Express, special train from New York to St Paul, Nebraska. Iams' big barns are full of big, black, ton stallions. He is just finishing a new barn: x 11 feet. Iams' horses are the sensation of the town. Visitors through his barn and say: "Never saw so many big black stallions together." "They are larger, bigger bone, more finish than ever before." "But Iams is progressive." "He buys them larger and better each year." "He makes prices that makes the people buy his horses." "Iams has a horse show every day, better than State Fairs." He has on hand over

100 BLA. K PERCHERONS, BELGIANS and COACHERS 100

2 to 6 years old, weight 1,600 to 2,500 lbs. More black Percherons, ton stallions, largest French horse show winners, more government approved and stamped stallions of any one importer in the west. Iams speaks French and German; pays no interpreter, no buyer, no salesman; no two to ten men as partners to share profits. His buyers get middlemen's profits and salaries. Iams buys direct from breeders. This with his twenty years' experience secures the best. All the above facts give his buyers \$500 to \$1,000 on a first-class stallion and you get a first-class horse, as only second rate stallions are peddled by sleek salesmen to be sold. Good ones sell themselves. It costs \$600 to \$800 to have a salesman form a company and sell a second rate stallion. Form your own companies. Go direct to Iams' barns. He will sell you a better stallion for \$1,000 and \$1,200 than others are selling at 2,000 and \$4,000. Iams pays horse's freight and his buyer's fare. Good guarantees. Barns in town. Don't be a clam. Write for an eye opener and finest horse catalogue on earth.

# FRANK IAMS

St. Paul, Howard Co., Neb. On U. P. and B. & M. Rys.

References: St. Paul State Bank, First State Bank, Citizens National Bank.

It is not to be expected the solution will be easy. The case is one in which the courts will have to choose between contestants each of whom has something of right and reason on his side. The water rights of riparian owners have long been solidly embedded in our law. Now come the irrigationists and in the name of public welfare declare the need of adopting a new principle. It is another illustration of the old truth that a law which may be just and fair in one country would work harm in another. It is to be hoped the case as presented between Kansas and Colorado will be sufficiently broad to determine the whole complex issue, so that there need be no further litigation on the subject, for the demand of irrigation is pressing, and it is time that all law points concerning it be definitely settled.

Mr. De Hart says in his article this week: "There is not much disposition here (in the east) to interfere with the great aggregations of capital merely because they are great aggregations." That should be true in every portion of the union. It is true as to people generally who have studied the question. Here in the west the exactions of trusts have been felt more keenly and for a longer time than in the east, and it is doubtless true that there is more or less of an unreasoning hatred against great corporations, as such, because most of the evils have come through them. But most of the men who hate any aggregation of capital simply because it is big are curiously enough voting the republican ticket here in Nebraska. Populists as a rule know where the sting comes and they are opposed to the system which makes the evil possible.

Since the election in this state the railroads have changed time tables, taken off trains and in other ways proceeded to economize in such a way that they will soon have back all the money they expended to buy a governor and legislature. Who can blame them? If they should issue an order that the depots should not be opened until five minutes before trains, that the buildings should not be heated so as to economize on coal, that extra charges shall be made on baggage and no bundles or satchels to be carried in the hand, it would be only fair and reasonable after the great expense that they have been to. They can do it. The legislature that they have elected would not say a word. Why should they not do all these things? There is nothing to hinder them. As for paying taxes the people decided that they were paying enough already.

## Anidrosis, Skowegan, Me.

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## Names of Farmers Wanted.

The Missouri Valley Farmer wants name and addresses of farmers anywhere in the West. They want to get them interested in their big farm magazine which now has a circulation of over 100,000 copies and is acknowledged to be the best farm paper in the West. The subscription price is six cents per year, but if you will send them five farmers' names and addresses and ten cents in stamps or silver they will enter you as a subscriber fully paid for a whole year. Address Missouri Valley Farmer, Topeka, Kansas.

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J. A. DONOHOE,  
O'Neill, Neb.

## Inalienable

Editor Independent: Every honest lawyer in the land will heartily endorse your very able article, "Absolute Ownership," in the issue of October 30, 1902. The right of eminent domain is inalienable. Yours for truth and right.

FRANCIS LEANDER KING,  
Worcester, Mass.

## ROY'S DRUG STORE

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