

HARDY'S COLUMN

If it is best and is lawful to have praying among our lawmakers, why is it not equally beneficial and lawful to allow praying among our school children? If men are allowed to pray, smoke and get drunk, why not allow children to do the same? If the state government sanctions the drunkard-making machine by giving a license, why not allow it to bless the young as well as the old? Inconsistency.

We hope the legislature will revolutionize the management of our penitentiary. Those strong, healthy men can be made to earn their own living and pay all expenses of the institution just as well as not; really it would make imprisonment more reformatory. It would be well to offer a reward to all those who behaved themselves, worked steadily and do their work well, a certain per cent of all they earn payable at the close of their term or monthly to their families if they have families. A few dollars, when a man comes out of the pen, will furnish him support until he can find employment. The state itself should employ the men, furnish the material and give no middleman a profit. The machinery for making broom handles and brooms costs but little. The lumber and broom corn can be bought and the men can do it all. In one day a man can learn to make brooms and at a week's end turn out a fair day's work. Then the machinery for spinning binding twine did not used to cost five dollars a spindle. It takes but little power to run twenty-five spindles and but very little training to learn how to spin. Then making barrels, especially apple barrels, it would be a great help to farmers, especially such fruit seasons as we had last year. Then there are many other things that other state institutions must have that the prisoners can make just as well as not, and save buying. Of course the labor unions will fight any such economy, for they fear one man at work in the pen will throw hundreds out of work outside.

It seems that party politicians in office think it not good party policy to force the collection of taxes. It certainly is more necessary to collect, within the year, what taxes are levied than to increase the valuation of the property that pays its taxes under the present tax collection. Give the sheriff authority and compel him to sell and give clear and full title to all property on which the tax is not paid within the year. Ten days before the sale notice should be served personally upon the owner of the property.

The punishment for the most dreaded crime should be the most dreaded punishment. Hanging is much more dreaded than imprisonment and every murderer pleads for the prison rather than the gallows. The punishment is not so much because a crime has been committed as to prevent more crime in the future. It is certain that hanging will prevent the one hung from committing any more crime; not so with the prison, for men plan murder in prison.

We do not need a board of control and a state accountant added to all our present state employees. The present

THE VALUE OF CHARCOAL

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Nearly everybody knows that charcoal is the safest and most efficient disinfectant and purifier in nature, but few realize its value when taken into the human system for the same cleansing purpose.

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Charcoal sweetens the breath after smoking, drinking or after eating onions and other odorous vegetables.

Charcoal effectually clears and improves the complexion, it whitens the teeth and further acts as a natural and eminently safe cathartic.

It absorbs the injurious gases which collect in the stomach and bowels; it disinfects the mouth and throat from the poison of catarrh.

All druggists sell charcoal in one form or another, but probably the best charcoal and the most for the money is in Stuart's Absorbent Lozenges; they are composed of the finest powdered Willow charcoal and other harmless antiseptics, in tablet form or rather in the form of large, pleasant tasting lozenges, the charcoal being mixed with honey.

The daily use of these lozenges will soon tell in a much improved condition of the general health, better complexion, sweeter breath and purer blood, and the beauty of it is, that no possible harm can result from their continued use, but on the contrary, great benefit.

A Buffalo physician in speaking of the benefits of charcoal, says: "I advise Stuart's Absorbent Lozenges to all patients suffering from gas in stomach and bowels, and to clear the complexion and purify the breath, mouth and throat; I also believe the liver is greatly benefited by the daily use of them; they cost but twenty-five cents a box at drug stores, and although in some sense a patent preparation, yet I believe I get more and better charcoal in Stuart's Absorbent Lozenges than in any of the ordinary charcoal tablets."

prevailing policy is not to require the head officer of any department to do any work only to draw his big salary and spend it. He must have a deputy, a clerk, a shorthand reporter and a typewriter to start with and then as many more wedged in as possible afterwards. A board of control of all the state institutions, including all supply purchasing, is certainly commendable.

Yes, the home for the friendless should be put back into the hands of the women. They know better how to care for babies than politicians do. No state institution was managed as well or as economically as the home for the friendless by the women. They received by voluntary contributions thousands of dollars to be used in that institution, thus relieving the taxpayers of nearly one-fourth of the running expenses. The law changing management was one of the things that knocked out the party in power. It would be equally proper to take the state fair out of the hands of the farmers. The state owns the ground and furnishes a part of the running expenses so the state owned the buildings of the home for the friendless and furnished a little larger proportion of the running expenses. Politicians know as much about farming as they do about caring for homeless children.

There are several other measures recommended in the two messages that should be carefully considered by the legislature. The labor bureau is of no use to the taxpayers. We do not believe in any civil service law that will give a state office for life as the national law does. We believe the normal school at Peru should be moved into the central part of the state or else a second one established west of the center. District judges are too numerous and five supreme judges will be a plenty, an odd number would be best so they could not divide even. We think one experimental farm is enough. Selling value should be the basis of all tax levies. Up to the present time the policy of every administration has been to increase the number of state officers and employees. We are glad for once that a reduction of state expenses has been recommended. State, county and city better pay security companies for bonds rather than not to have anybody watch our treasurers. Every treasurer, city, county and state, should be required to report the receipts and payments of the month and where every dollar of balance is.

H. W. HARDY.

Railroads in Politics

Those who attended the meeting of the Nebraska State Historical society Tuesday night differed widely in their appreciation of Hon. Edward Rosewater's historical reminiscences on "Railroads in Nebraska Politics." Those who have for years been apologists for and participants in railroad domination were, of course, highly incensed; but those who have conscientiously opposed such domination were well pleased.

Mr. Rosewater can certainly lay no claims to oratory, but stored away in his memory is a vast amount of valuable historical data accumulated during his long residence in the state. He began by relating a conversation he had had with Marvin Hughitt of the Northwestern system at Chicago in 1892. A labor day parade was in progress and Mr. Hughitt remarked (indicating the paraders), "There go the men who make this government." "Yes," assented Rosewater—"when you let them." "What do you mean by that?" demanded Hughitt. And the editor of the Bee proceeded to enlighten him.

He pointed out the selection of a local attorney—and delivery of his pass; the selection of a local surgeon—and delivery of his pass; the pass given to the local editor. Then the first primary, where the attorney, surgeon, editor, station agent and section men controlled and made nominations and selected delegates to suit their favorite railroad. How in a very short time the railroads had secured absolute dominion over the politics of Nebraska, working, quite naturally, through the republican party.

He recalled the incidents in connection with the submission of the constitution of 1871—a document containing wise provisions for keeping railroads in their proper place as common carriers and preventing them from being monarchs of all they surveyed. How by stratagem a clause was inserted for universal taxation, which had the effect for once in history of aligning both Catholic and Methodist against the constitution. Yet, notwithstanding the union of railroads and churches, the constitution was adopted by a majority of the

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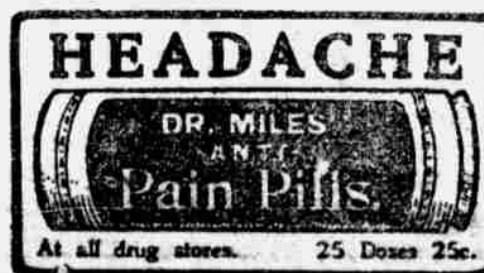


voters—and boldly counted out "under authority of the railroads of Nebraska."

Mr. Rosewater attributed the populist uprising to an earnest protest against railroad domination and repudiated the idea currently disseminated by republicans that "hard times and drouth makes pops." Coming down to the present day, he hesitated for a moment and then intimated that he was engaged in relating history—not news. A voice in the audience asked him to go ahead, but he refused, saying: "What has occurred recently you know as well as anyone."

One man in the audience, Dr. George L. Miller, was evidently much displeased with Mr. Rosewater's address. After adjournment he was heard to declare that the railroads were compelled to enter politics in order to protect themselves against blackmail. "Yes," said another, "and Rosewater himself has helped to blackmail them."

Prof. Vincent advises The Independent that the grain growers will have headquarters at the Capital hotel, this city, during their meeting next week. At this meeting the Minnesota elevator law will doubtless be considered and an effort made to secure its passage by the legislature. It proposes to arm persons, associations and corporations, purporting to run elevators or grain warehouses, with the right of eminent domain, permitting them to condemn and take sufficient railroad right of way for a building site.



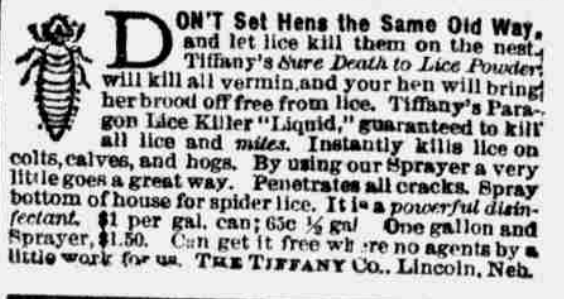
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