

CASPER ON POYNTER

David City Editor Indulges in His Favorite Pastime on Reading Governor Poynter's Letter.

Ex-Governor Poynter is out in a letter predicting that the gold democrats are going to swallow the Bryanites next year. If Mr. Poynter had not made three failures to every two successes while governor, his predictions would carry more weight with this editor. Governor Poynter is an honest, conscientious man, but he is not a good judge of human nature. Noise and flimflam deceives him. For two years republicans, gold democrats and populists have been yelling from the hillsides and housetops—the cry along the valleys, that the Bryan democrats would be thrown over the transom in 1904. We are dead on the game of republicans and gold democrats, but there is a whining, sickly I-told-you-so air about the populist brother that is beginning to nauseate. As between a rascal and a damphool the rascal is the safest to tie to. You can watch your rascal, but a fool slops over in so many directions your time is all wasted in trying to keep your partner straight. What do populists expect to gain by eternally nagging Bryan democrats? Whatever the results of the battle next year the Bryan democrats won't be on their knees to any one. They will cut an important figure somewhere, and it is just possible that the ex-governor and several of his kind will have a mighty sight lonelier time next year than Bryan democrats. The fool breaks of Governor Poynter in appointing nincompoops to important positions, did as much as anything else to lose the state, and the long list of disappointed nincompoops who didn't get anything completed the job. This editor has supported fusion from start to finish, because he believes that the policies of the republican party are unfair, unjust and a menace to the future good of this republic. For seven years men of the ex-governor's stamp have been thanking God they were not as other men, and when not holding office, apologizing for their affiliation. If the Bryan democrats get thrown over the transom next year, Mr. Poynter won't be the man to corral them. They will meet the crisis when it comes, without chewing the rag forever. We can pick out a dozen populist leaders in Nebraska who can chew the rag more, and say less, than any other dozen men who ever disturbed sound waves on this earth—past, present or hope of future competition.—C. D. Casper, in Press, David City.

Brother Casper's puking spells come on with such marked regularity as to cause the uninitiated some concern—but populists who know him and the faithful work he has done in the past are not inclined to get angry because of the nasty things he says occasionally about them. But he really ought to change prescriptions. This sudden nausea every once in a while indicates a disordered liver.

Speaking of masticating that dilapidated fragment of cotton fabric, it may not be "forever" since 1896 and 1900, but The Independent has an impression that any one of several democratic newspapers in Nebraska could give all Brother Casper's "dozen populist leaders" cards and spades and then win out hands down in the matter of "chewing the rag." Populists in 1900 had troubles of their own with party bolters—but they have quit quarrelling over the past and are looking to the future. It is not particularly bright right now, that's a fact—because fusion with the democrats resulted in practical annihilation of the people's party organization in substantially every state except Kansas and Nebraska. In Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Kentucky, Colorado, Idaho, Montana—but what's the use of naming all of them?—the democrats succeeded in doing what a good many democrats have tried to do in Nebraska: Absorbed the populist organization something like—

"The noble cassowary
On the plans of Timbuctoo
Gobbled up a missionary,
Flesh and bones and hymn-book,
too."

Naturally a few democrats, who could see farther ahead than the end of their respective noses, knowing that democracy never could come within gunshot of carrying Nebraska until the people's independent party came into existence, have very sensibly opposed disrupting the populist organization here. And the party organization here has "fused" and lived, while nearly everywhere else it has either fused or refused—and died.

As an example of the Darwinian theory, "the survival of the fittest," the populist organization in Nebraska

will be the rallying point for disinherited populists everywhere to reform under the banner of populism—if the Cleveland democrats win. There may be an attempt at independent action, notwithstanding the Bryan element prevails and adopts a fairly progressive platform—but it will be an abortive effort, for what might be called the "conservative" populists will follow Bryan and the "radicals" will undoubtedly join hands with the socialists, and a few of the "half-baked" sort will sneak back into the republican fold. This is a plain look at the situation without allowing party pride or personal wishes to becloud it.

Certainly with this state of affairs staring them in the face, Nebraska populists have considerable reason for "eternally nagging Bryan democrats." Bryan democrats need considerable prodding to make them alive to the situation. They are pretty much asleep. Many of them seem to think they can win "like falling off a log." They are depending upon Bryan to do all the work. The Independent concedes his splendid generalship—but "cold-footed" soldiers have lost battles for the finest of strategists and tacticians.

In the language of the recently resurrected, whose political obsequies we have several times fondly, but foolishly thought had been successfully performed, it is "a condition and not a theory that confronts us." Given an army of cock-sure patriots who are quite willing to let their gallant leader do most of the fighting, while a gang of unscrupulous camp-followers are fring at him with smokeless guns from the rear—well, Brother Casper, will that jaundiced liver of yours keep order just a moment while The Independent suggests that it is not at all a breach of military etiquette or the articles of war for an ally to call attention to the danger? It may to your ears sound rather smart to call Nebraska populists "damphools"—probably they are for standing so loyally by Bryan even when many of his own party followers through jealousy would knife him if they dared, and annually "take a puke over fusion" and regularly return to their vomit. The "whining, sickly, I-told-you-so" airs of populists and their "slopping over" may, perchance, "nauseate" you and cause your gorge to rise again and again—but you will hardly refuse to assist these selfsame "rag-chewers" and "nincompoops" in re-electing Judge Sullivan? When it comes to playing this "mighty sight lonelier" game, the populists will "stand pat" and draw no cards.

CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE.

HARDY'S COLUMN

Quite a stir is being made over the postoffice frauds, but it will all be whitewashed over and the same men will be given a higher office, perhaps in one of the island governments. That is the reward the census stuffers got in this state. Forty or fifty thousand were fraudulently added to the population of this state in 1890 and today the stuffer is stuffed with a higher office, and the money he received from the fraud has never been taken from him.

The great losses sustained by the railroad companies during the last year from floods, fires, hold-ups and smash-ups will use up a large share of the dividends on watered stock. No one thinks of sending donations to any losing company. Then look at the judgments obtained for death, accident and broken arms and legs. The road receipts must be sufficient to meet all these. Then the repairs needed from wear-outs and rot-outs are not small.

It appears that obstinate foolish Colombia is likely to thwart the completion of the Panama canal. That government seems to be divided in two parts—loyal and rebels—and each party wants half the money. We are inclined to think that Roosevelt would be justified in exercising a little war power. If a road or canal is needed through a man's farm he can't prevent its going through; so a nation should not be allowed to block the business of the world. The president could send fifty or a hundred thousand soldiers down there for fighting or digging.

The month of May, 1903, will go down in history as a month of many horrors, floods, drouths, fires and winds. But a small portion of our country has entirely escaped. If the balance of the season is favorable, crops may be medium.

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bless England just as it has blessed the United States? Of course the most of the money received by the government will come out of the common laboring people just as it does here and the wealthy people would go nearly clear.

Our climate does vary. This variation can be detected by the thickness of the grains of wood in large trees. Trees enlarged nearly twice as much last year as they did the year before. There seems to have been several wet seasons together and several dry ones together as a rule.

Hanna's ship subsidy don't seem to be advocated by half as many republican papers as it was two or three years ago. And Hanna himself is not talked of for president half as much.

It is a fact that farm land of Nebraska can stand more rain and more drought than any other state. There is little doubt but that the wheat and other small grain, and grass, will be equal to any state in the union. There is still a chance for the corn to be equal. A good cool wheat year is seldom a good corn year.

The meat packers of Kansas City should have a donation this year in place of a fine. Their losses are estimated by the millions.

The slaughter of a king and queen in Serbia is only an old-fashioned way of getting rid of such burdens; in fact, it is the only way. In this country death has come to our rulers even when they were limited to four years' reign. There should be a difference. Kings are birth rulers while our presidents are chosen by a majority of the people.

Republican election money begins to stir up Wall street. One man thinks ten thousand will be the extent collected on the street for Roosevelt's election. Millions could be collected for the election of Hanna.

Lawless murder does not seem to be confined to the southern states. Western Kansas ranks high in that line and eastern Kansas ranks low as flood territory. When the fences are being torn down in western Nebraska we may have a few murder touches.

More hard coal trouble seems to be brewing. It is thought the 20 cents a ton added for digging coal ought to be well covered by the dollar a ton added

to the selling price. It is reported that when the miners got their back pay they had the biggest drunk for years. The saloonkeepers were vitally interested.

It appears that some of the post-office frauds are being traced toward some near friends of our last two presidents. That was the case when Grant was president when the Star Route frauds were opened.
H. W. HARDY.

Peak and Chasm

In whatever direction the Colorado tourist may choose by rail, if he go to the mountains his journey is a succession of glorious scenery, varying in the characteristics of placid beauty, grotesque ruggedness, and awe-inspiring grandeur.

Up the canons are stupendous walls rising perpendicularly, or gradually sloping back toward greater hills, or, yet again, leaning forward above the chasm, as if threatening to come tumbling down—projecting great rocks that hang suspended over the train as it glides smoothly by—a panorama of wonders and grandeur such as belong only to the Rocky mountains.

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Names of Farmers Wanted

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The theory of "surplus value"—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.