

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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MARK ZARR - Foreman.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1906.

Government Ownership.

(O'Neill Independent.)

The railroads of Australia are owned by the government and last year the net profits on the railroads were \$22,745,508 which went into the government treasury and helped the people pay their taxes. The net proceeds from the railroads of Nebraska last year were \$5,352,331.53 which went to help enrich the nabobs of the east. Here we have two pictures from which you can draw your own conclusions and need but a few minutes in order to arrive at your decision.

The Death of Depew.

No; Senator Depew's heart has not ceased to beat; his eyelids have not been shut down; his body is not rigid; he is not yet to be sculptured.

But the man whom the nation has known and heeded and delighted to honor is nevertheless dead—dead to the power he once wielded, dead to fame, dead to further usefulness, or happiness.

Health, spirit and power are gone out of him, as light is gone out of an extinguished lamp.

All that remains is a warning.

A people who long looked up to Cahuncy M. Depew with respect and confidence, who merely laughed with him, and were thrilled by his learned eloquence, cannot repress the pity that springs from the heart at his plight today.

But pity, though generous even to tears, must not blind us to the vital lesson of this broken life.

We must see in it that there are more ways to suicide than the bullet, the poison, the dagger or the rope—more certain ways to a more complete death.

In this poor old man, blasted and ruined at the eventide of his long, bright day by his own greed, God Almighty himself is preaching to this nation one of the most powerful sermons.

It is a sermon that every young man should hear and heed.

We may fool the preacher and the priest; we may dodge the sheriff and the judge; but we cannot get away from the supreme law and its sure penalties.

The Depew we have known and loved and laughed with is dead—a suicide. The sparkle has gone from his eye, the sunny glow from his face; the spring of his eloquence has dried up, and the once budding jest has frozen upon his cold lips.

The strength of a Samson is shorn from him. The giant has shrunk to a pigmy. Only a few days ago the highest felt honor in his friendship, and now the very meanest of us all may laugh at him.

Yes; there is suicide more complete than that of the dagger or the rope, and it not only breaks a man in body, but kills fame, power, honor, pride, hope, peace.

—Omaha Daily News.

Shaw's Candidacy for President.

Council Bluffs, Ia., Jan. 30.—Editor World-Herald: Several farmer politicians were recently discussing matters in general when the conversation turned upon Governor (now secretary) Shaw. Mr.

Brown said: "It's not very long since Mr. Shaw was entirely unknown in Iowa politics. Treynor claims to have discovered Shaw. Well! Treynor got the postoffice—a great reward for a small discovery. The prohibitionists and the Methodist church shoved Shaw on to the republican convention about eight years ago, and he was nominated for governor. None of the big men of the party wanted the nomination at that time, and he went through easily, and was elected.

"He made a fair governor, except that he was not equal to the occasion when the Spanish war broke out. He knew nothing of military matters, and did not take advice. He played gum shoe politics, and was afraid of offending some boy's father. The Iowa boys were all right, but they were not properly handled, and it was known beforehand that they would not be.

"Was Iowa heard of in that war? Was any glory added to her banner? I think if Gov. Jackson or Gov. Drake had been in the chair Iowa's record would have been different."

"I guess you're right," said Farmer Smith. After that Shaw began to run himself for president, and to get rid of him as a candidate he was appointed secretary of the treasury."

Mark Hanna said: "There's Shaw rattling around in the chair of the secretary of the treasury and trying to fill it." Well, he has rattled around and played gum shoe politics ever since.

I hear that his department sorely needs investigating, not so much for what he has done as what he has left undone. He wants to get out before it comes, as it might hurt his presidential candidacy.

I noticed in the election news last fall an item to the effect that Secretary Shaw had reduced the democratic majority in Virginia. That's important. They had all they wanted, didn't they? And if they had wanted a few more thousands they would have added them on.

The Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier said recently: "Since Secretary Shaw has spoken in Florida we do not mind conceding the fact that he has just as much chance for carrying that state as he has of carrying any other in 1908."

I don't suppose Shaw expect to carry Florida or Virginia, but he is after the delegates to the next republican convention. He is playing Secretary John Sherman's game. You know Sherman thought he had most of the southern delegates fixed, but complained that General Alger of Michigan bought up his delegates at the last moment, and that's the way Shaw will end up. He had better look after Iowa.

Gov. Cummins is not going to let him have a solid delegation, and I don't believe the standpaters are going to tear their shirts for him; in fact, it will surprise me if his name ever goes before the convention.

"Mr. Jones, what do the folks down your way say about Shaw's running for president?"
"They don't say nuthin'; they jest laff."
Yours truly,
A. J. FARMER.

The Press Bureau.

(Lincoln Star.)

Neurotic press bureau work is one of the chief industries of the capital city just now. One ex-lobbyist has again started out to impose upon country editors. He sends forth laudations of prominent men and, eventually, hopes to land a job. He expects to be private secretary to some governor or senator, preferably the latter. This man conducted a press bureau last winter in hopes of securing recognition. At one time he was an attache of a railroad, but this corporation has dispensed with his political services.

It does not matter with the press bureau promoters that the victims of their praise have not indorsed or countenanced the publicity work. The game is an old one, and was exposed by the Star last winter. Then there was a deliberate effort to browbeat Governor Mickey. At one time it was planned to have hundreds of telegrams come to the executive office in order to get Mickey to approve a certain bill. This scheme was exposed, and the executive paid no attention to the agitators. The press bureau seeks to impose upon both the victim, who is eventually "approached" for the expenses, and the country editors. Cunningly worded "boosts," "knocks" and "puffs" are sent to the rural press. Sometimes a news letter is written. The effect is the same. The editor perhaps prints a dozen items, one of which is "poisoned." The latter contains a few ambiguous phrases and some commendation. When this appears in the country paper the success of the plan seems assured. The next step is to compile the statements and reprint them in order to convince the people at large and the weekly papers that the voice of the people insists upon a certain man for a certain place.

The endless chain process is continued day after day and week after week. The press bureau promoter writes the frenzied matter. He sends it out and patiently watches for results. Of a hundred items, perhaps but one is printed. With commendable patience the press bureau promoter sends out a hundred more. Of these he scores once or twice. Oftentimes the democratic papers "see the point" and, in order to avoid dissension, print the laudations without limit. When the notices are reprinted the frenzied publicist takes the rewards of his toil and lays them, fruits of victory, at the feet of the man who is being "puffed."

Oftentimes the promoter has a double task. He must persuade the subject to enter the race. He must cause the "voice of the people" to be heard at the same time. He manufacturers the "tuffy" and then feeds it to the victim. When the candidate enters the race the promoter is in his glory. He can either land his man or "sell out" for a job with some other candidate. "Knocks" are landed with impunity, and the opposition press will always use them. The press bureau artists simply declare that "John Smith is a candidate for so and so; he is not making much headway, for this is not the year for a corporation candidate." Or if the corporation subject is not uppermost, the bureau artist connects the unfortunate one with some calamity or unpopular phase of state history.

Sometimes two press bureaus will be started for the same man, without the consent of the aspirant, and embarrassment results. One has to be "choked off." Sometimes the candidate refuses to foot the bills, and both are suppressed. Then the press bureau "expires," after sending out attacks on the man who has been lauded. The methods of this sort of press bureau are well known, and comparatively few editors can be "faked," now that they have become familiar with the bureau's purposes and the motives which prompt them.

SCHOOL NOTES.

By Margarette Quigley.
Clara Dunham.

The 5th grade Geography class will take up "Asia" next week.

Kay Savage of the 6th grade is out of school on account of sickness.

Addie Harvey and Tillie Mas-singale of the 5th grade are out of school on account of sickness.

Most of the school children of the 2nd primary room are doing excellent work in all their studies.

There were 21 in the 1st intermediate room who received certificates for not being absent nor tardy during the month of January.

Each member of the 11th grade Literature class has the privilege of selecting one book for the library, for which he is to be responsible.

Seventeen pupils in the second primary room in the 3rd grade, and eight in the 4th, received perfect attendance certificates for the month ending Feb. 2.

Helen Hornby has been absent from school for over a week on account of illness. We miss her very much indeed, and hope she will soon be able to return to school.

(Items crowded out last week.)

Ruth Quigley was absent one day last week on account of sickness.

Chester Holsclaw is back in school again, having been absent because of his father's illness.

The first division of the eleventh grade are preparing their declamations which are to be given at Church's hall, Feb. 23rd.

In Miss Pettitjohn's room, six have been neither absent nor tardy: Clair Savage, Edgar Carlson, Marjorie Garrett, Daisy Holsclaw, Carrie Burch and Olive Jones.

The first primary children will this week make a study of light. They will make a study of the moon, stars and sun, and all games and occupation work will be about the same.

The following pupils in the 2nd primary room have been neither absent nor tardy the first half year: Froebel Jones, Willie Burch, Lloyd Carlson, Jennie Graham, Martha Haley and Myrtle Fitzgerald.

The dining hall committee has given \$150—the money left over from the expense of carrying on the dining hall—to the library. This, with what we expect to make from our programs, will make a very efficient library.

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