

The Norfolk News

Weather Prophet Hicks predicted a long and disastrous drought after July 10 and it rained like the old Harry. Forecasting the weather is not always reliable, as Hicks has often discovered.

In spite of their forcing the democrats to one place on the state ticket the fact still remains that the populists are without representation on the national ticket. It is probably all right as it is "for Bryan's sake."

It cost the Nebraska delegation to the Kansas City convention \$1,000 for their hotel accommodations—a slight evidence of luxurious plutocracy that would take the edge off of the sharpest calamity statement ever made.

"For Bryan's sake" don't you popocratic fellows take a common sense view of the prosperity situation. Just call all prosperity facts lies and let it go at that. Make an ass of yourself if necessary "for Bryan's sake."

The straight populists of Stanton county organized last Saturday and chose delegates to the state, congressional, senatorial and representative conventions. They claim that about 30 per cent of the populist vote in Stanton county will support the middle-of-the-road movement.

The fusionists are already proving that Indiana and Ohio will go for Bryan this fall. It is one of their old games, rather frayed around the edges by election returns proving its fallacy, but still in the ring. They are always carrying Indiana and Ohio—until the votes are counted.

Delegates of both parties to the fusion state convention are very much discouraged at the renouncing of Poynter for governor and some of them openly avow their intention of not supporting him. It is conceded by many that he is a light weight when put in opposition to such a man as Dietrich.

In spite of their outward laughter at the middle-of-the-road populists the fusionists have a wholesome fear of them, as is evidenced by their waiting for the convention on the 20th to determine what they will do with Towne, whether "for Bryan's sake" it is necessary to keep him on the ticket or drop him.

From all reports it is evident that Ex-President Cleveland will not lead his followers into the Bryanite camp, even though they did induce his vice president to sit on the platform with Mr. Bryan. He cannot be convinced that "imperialism" is the paramount issue, nor can he endorse the reaffirmation of 16 to 1.

Mr. Bryan says there will be no more 4th of July if McKinley is re-elected. It would be a joke to re-elect him and see what kind of calendar he would give us. Would he have it jump from the 3d to the 5th or would he rename the month? Don't ask if he could do it, McKinley and Hanna can do anything men, while Bryan could do nothing but good.

Leonard Grieser of Highland township, Gage county, who was elected assessor last fall on the fusion ticket, and voted for Bryan in 1896, announces his intention of voting for McKinley this fall and states that he knows of seven other men in his township who have made the same change. This is only one township, but it is apparent that like changes are being made all over the state.

What thinking people believe in regard to Mr. Bryan's effort to discredit the prosperity so evident to all is shown by the following from Hon. Jas. H. Eckles, who is a democrat: "No man is fitted for the presidency who day in and day out proclaims, in the midst of a demonstrated better condition of affairs, the reverse to be true in order to foment a discontent which will gain to himself and party a political advantage."

Fusion papers have repeatedly commented on the simultaneous appearance of like editorials in some republican papers, but their comment is now a boomerang. Many fusion sheets are lately striking lines of thought that look suspiciously similar and might have originated in the same brain, as they are often word for word. The fact is apparent that either fusion editors are conscienceless thieves or are in close touch with a "bureau." It is dangerous for people who live in glass houses to throw stones.

David B. Hill is all right—any fusionist will say so and swear to it. His opinions on imperialism are sound and consistent, unlike those of some blathering demagogues who have heretofore spoken or written on the subject. At the Kansas City convention in reference to Bryan's stand on the 16 to 1 question this democratic statesman said: "Just as I am opposed to imperialism in a nation, so I am opposed to it in an individual." It is not unlikely that Mr. Hill will register his vote against the imperialism of Bryan.

The State Journal intimates that perhaps McKinley may abolish Christmas after he has made the Fourth of July

obsolete, according to Bryan's program of what the republicans will do if they are continued in power. After he has done all this he may attack the cream and caramels and prohibit their manufacture and consumption. It is hard to determine where the president's viciousness will stop. He may even taboo baseball—that great national game. Bryan should continue to warn the people of his machinations and thereby increase his support, and incidentally save the country.

Madison county's candidate for state treasurer was compelled to stop aside "for Bryan's sake." Mr. Luikart accurately guessed the event at the Kansas City convention when he asked John Maher in the presence of a State Journal reporter: "What do you think the populists will do to us next Wednesday? Will they kick us out to pay for this day's work?" It is presumed, therefore, that he is not as previously disappointed as many of his friends who hoped by his nomination to hold the Gorman vote in line. The "day's work" referred to was when the democratic convention turned down Towne and nominated Stevenson.

The fusionists are very fearful that the straight populists will get lost or that they will be an insignificant feature in the present campaign. They should not borrow trouble. They have plenty of their own. The mid-roads have taken a step that will insure them a party when those now fusing will be hunting a political home. They have not made the claim of being in the majority, but they do not call for democratic assistance and bring in the silver republicans to make a showing and then become so ashamed of their proceedings that they fail to make them public. The mid-roads will prove an embarrassing factor to the fusionists before the campaign is over.

It has been interesting to watch the stupendous efforts that have been put forth by the fusionists to keep the allied forces in line. There has been great sacrifices of principles, of candidates, of convictions, and it can be scarcely wondered at that there are many disappointments and injured feelings. It was all done for Bryan's sake and to disinterested persons the question continually arises "is he worth it?" How much better is he than those who have foregone ambitions at the dictations of himself or his managers? What has he done that he should require others to step aside for him? The worst of it all, that all the sacrifices have not proved entirely satisfactory and it is doubtful if the desired result has been attained.

Mr. Bryan's advice to the voters at Lincoln the other day to remember they are American citizens and to vote as though the government's policy depended on their individual vote is very good advice, indeed, and the republican party will have no cause to regret if the advice is heeded. There are too many voters who are misled by party loyalty, catch phrases and demagogic speeches. There should be more of deep, earnest thought and study. It does not require a very stable memory to determine that this, however, is not consistent with previous utterances of the same gentleman, who recently made the assertion that his party would be satisfied with the vote of those who had not received their share of prosperity and would accord the republicans the votes of those who had received their share, as since McKinley was elected Mr. Bryan's personal property has increased in value about 1,700 per cent and his would be one vote which should go to McKinley according to his logic.

Looking over the field at the close of the century, it is seen that the United States stands practically alone among irrigation countries in having left all the work of reclamation to the unaided efforts of private capital, and in the prodigality of the surrender of public control of streams. In one respect the policy pursued has been successful. It has resulted in an enormous investment (not less than \$100,000,000, and some estimates make it twice that sum) and the creation of taxable and productive wealth of many times the amount invested. We have now about reached the limit of this sort of growth. There will be few large private investments in canals hereafter until we have better and more liberal irrigation laws. Entrance on the coming century is confronted by larger problems; the storage of flood waters, the interstate division of streams, and the inauguration of an adequate system of public control, which will insure to the humblest handler of a shovel his share of the snows falling on mountains above his farm, no matter how far removed he may be.

This country has probably been drifting toward "imperialism" for a long time, if evidences of friendship for England will serve to indicate. Way back in 1855, when Franklin Pierce was president the government did a thing which might well indicate a secret alliance and determine this country's friendship for England. If such a thing were done this later day the anti-imperialists might have a "spell" or several of them. During that year the captain of an American whaler discovered the English ship Resolute, which had sailed from England in 1852 in search of Sir John

Franklin and party. The vessel was in an ice floe and after considerable effort was released and taken to the United States. Congress appropriated \$10,000, had the vessel refitted and returned it to England, where it was received amid imposing ceremonies, the United States flag being displayed on all the English ships, together with the flag of their country. In 1877 the Resolute was broken up and the queen had a fine table made of her timbers which is today in the president's office at the white house. It was a mark of friendship which has not been bestowed in recent years and at a cost that would, even at this day seem extravagant. And yet the "imperialism" that this would forebode in the minds of democrats of the present day has not yet made its appearance.

Under the head, "Some Figures—Let the Voter Ponder Before he Concludes to Oppose Prosperity by his Vote," the Columbus Journal this week presents the following statistics of local interest: "The following table will show how the prosperous farmer of Nebraska is reducing the mortgage indebtedness, and retiring eastern capital. For the six months ending June 30, 1900, nearly \$132,000 has been paid off in two counties alone. Following is the score:

Table with 2 columns: County Name and Real estate mortgages released. Rows include Platte County, Madison County, and Real estate mortgages released.

The Fusion Ticket. The fairest opinion of the fusion state convention should come from an independent source and if it comes from a paper that has hitherto shown leanings toward democratic policies it should be all the more satisfactory to the fusionists. The following is the opinion of the Omaha News:

"The fusion state ticket nominated at Lincoln outside of its personnel has the fault that it is heterogeneous; it is neither fish nor fowl. The governor is a populist and in case of his death or removal is to be succeeded by a silver republican lieutenant governor. The attorney general, who should be in intimate accord with the state officials, is a democrat. No one of the three parties can be held directly responsible for a faulty administration of the affairs of the state.

"Competition in politics as well as in business benefits the people, but in this instance the democrats were forced to accept whoever the populists might name in a blind pool. The question of party expediency was alone considered in his selection, not his qualifications for a great office.

"It is doubtful if much enthusiasm over the ticket will result. Poynter has proven a good deal of a disappointment so far and he undoubtedly owes his renomination to the fact that it is presidential year and that his only competitor was John O. Yeiser. There was no other candidate in the populist camp and the democrats who could have furnished better gubernatorial material were shut out. Poynter, if elected, will probably undertake to please everybody in the distribution of patronage and will offend the most radical members of the party and let the 'gang' get in its work as heretofore. When he was first elected he was expected to show a degree of independence unparalleled in the history of the state. That is, the rank and file of his own party expected this, but the 'gang' knew this and kept mum. As a result, his own better judgment has been often set at naught, notably in the Omaha charter bill veto.

"It is significantly mentioned that Mr. Bryan is very well pleased with the work of the convention. This is undoubtedly because he succeeded in preventing an open rupture between the populists and democrats growing out of the turning out of Towne at Kansas City. But as to how well the people of Nebraska are pleased remains to be seen."

Nearly all the fusion office holders and pie biters in Nebraska were summoned to Lincoln on the occasion of the fusion state convention to help swell the crowd. Take out those earning good salaries under the reform government and the crowd would have been slim indeed. The State Journal of yesterday published a partial list of those in attendance to the number of about 200, and regrets that the records were not complete enough to secure the names of all. The Journal also called to mind, in connection therewith, the plank adopted by the populists at their convention in Omaha in 1892, which was supposed to be one of the firm tenets of populism, as follows: "No person holding any office or position of profit, trust or emolument under the federal or any state or municipal government, including senators and congressmen and members of the legislature, state or local, shall be eligible to sit or vote in any convention of the party, and a copy of this ordinance shall be annexed to every call for any future convention."

Desperation. If the following is not a desperate effort to make an argument we do not know what desperation is. But for the evidence of a mighty effort to say something convincing and something intended as a thunderbolt that would jar republicanism to its very foundations the article would be very humorous. It appeared in the World-Herald of Thursday under the head, "A Blasphemous Claim," and here it is:

"The claim of 'McKinley prosperity' dined into the ears of everybody in the past three years, is blasphemous. It is time for sensible men to give this matter the importance it deserves, and condemn the sacrilege. The cry of 'McKinley prosperity' has become so signal that republicans are beginning to believe Mark Hanna has usurped the place of the Creator. The whooping and shouting at the Ohio state imperial convention when the 'great man' opened his mouth, claiming that all the so-called prosperity of the country was due to the benign administration of McKinley, surpassed the orgies on the plains of Sinai, when the Israelites worshipped and danced around the golden calf. 'They denied the bounty of the Almighty in blessing our land with bounteous crops, to enable the people to pay in part their mountain load of debt to England and Europe, and attributed it to the genius of Mark Hanna. The Greeks and Romans gave Alexander and Caesar divine honors and the Ohio imperialists blasphemously gave Mark Hanna Godlike attributes, by attributing to him the operation of natural laws, which made the earth yield her increase in the United States.'

If anyone is to blame for according Mark Hanna 'Godlike' or other supernatural attributes it is the World-Herald and papers of its ilk. In 1896 Mark Hanna was represented as a monster, with all the powers of evil at his command. His face and form were pictured in the foulest shapes and expressions imaginable. The prosperity of the country, lives of Americans and all conceivable wrongs were threatened by him. When republicans made a claim of prosperity, some fusion sheet sarcastically informed the people that Mark Hanna was probably responsible for the rains, the abundant crops, etc., etc., and the sarcasm was taken up and reiterated by all the little fusion organs in the country. Republican papers caught at its silliness and picked it up and made it so ridiculous that the fusionists became ashamed of their production. Now they are seeking to lay the whole thing to the republicans and insinuate that Hanna is believed by them to have, not a 'heaven born ratio' like 16 to 1, but supernatural powers. The World-Herald is sorry it ever circulated the sarcastic humor which has since been made ridiculous by the republicans.

But really, if memory serves aright, there were abundant crops under Cleveland. Farmers had corn to burn. It was cheaper to burn corn than sell it and buy coal. Corn was worth about 10 cents a bushel—oats 8 cents, and still there was no prosperity and farmers were not paying their debts. Abundant crops are not all there is to prosperity.

That the popocrats are at some extremity for campaign material is disclosed by the following from the Albion News: "Some of our leading pops, including the chairman of that organization, have been industriously circulating the story that C. H. Dietrich, the republican candidate for governor, was in Albion some weeks since, and spent his time while here in saloons buying and drinking beer with the habitues thereof. This story, unlike most of the popocratic campaign lies, had a foundation of truth. A man by the name of Dietrich, being the traveling salesman of an Omaha brewery, was in town, and being introduced to some parties in one of our saloons was asked if he was the man who was running for governor, jokingly said, 'yes, I am the man, walk up and have something.' Carrying the joke still farther, these parties told that they had been drinking with Dietrich, candidate for governor. That's all there is to the story, and we are sorry to deprive these holier than thou fellows this sweet morsel which they have been rolling under their hypocritical tongues. When C. H. Dietrich visits Albion they will not have to go to the saloons to meet him."

The business barometer of every community is the condition of its banks. When these institutions show a scarcity of money it is safe to predict that the money is scarce with the people. Regarding the situation thus the statements recently published by the Norfolk banks are extremely gratifying. The statements show that the money on deposit at the beginning of this month in the two institutions under the items, "Individual deposits subject to check, Demand certificates of deposit and Time certificates of deposit," was \$190,532 82. The statements published the first of March, 1897, show the money on deposit in the two banks under the same items to have been \$219,959.06, the deposits having increased more than 100 per cent or \$243,573.70 since that time. This is a gratifying showing and an enormous increase not alone shown by the financial institutions of Norfolk. This increase is especially noteworthy in that this is an agricultural community and a large majority of the depositors are tillers of the soil.

The Nebraska Independent and Non-conformist, two leading populist organs are saying bad things about each other.

The populist Schuyler Quill talks to Mr. Tibbles of the Independent in the following fashion; after calling him "a big dance": "While Mr. Vincent has been advocating the cause of reform with a fearlessness at no time tempered with a consideration for personal aggrandizement, Mr. Tibbles, the editor of the Independent, has been looking for salaried 'snaps,' appointments, special correspondence bureaus, etcetera." This sort of business should cease and everybody swallow their medicine and look pleasant "for Bryan's sake."

The people are generally satisfied that it was not free coinage at 16 to 1 that this country needed to raise prices and produce prosperity. In 1896 there were many who took that proposition as the best plan, but the majority, remembering the history of the republican party, were willing to trust it with the duty and they have not been disappointed. Even those who supported the 16 to 1 proposition in 1896 are no longer enthusiastic over it, but the Kansas City convention said it must be an issue in 1900 and its adherents will now endeavor to resurrect the old arguments which were unavailing four years ago.

Mr. Bryan says the republican party will not carry a single state—not even Vermont. Mr. Bryan repeatedly proved himself a false prophet in 1896 and seems bent on proving himself a worse one in 1900. How a good christian gentleman like Mr. Bryan could stand up and make such an assertion, hoping his most enthusiastic supporter to believe it, is beyond comprehension. Such statements enthrone nobody and convince no one. He might as well have said there wouldn't be a single republican vote polled this fall.

It is reported that 10,000 Boers are preparing to emigrate to America—"the land of the free and the home of the brave." They will come realizing that their liberties are safe. No grander testimonial could be paid to this country than that the Boers should come here to enjoy rights of which they believed themselves deprived in South Africa. They will be welcome, as all industrious, law abiding foreigners have been and there is plenty of room and opportunity for all who may choose to come.

There were men who were ready to fight for Bryan and free silver in 1896 who are now not saying a word. They honestly believed that through them was to come the redemption of the country from the calamitous condition that oppressed them. All their desires have been attained under McKinley and they now see no cause for emphasizing their mistake by talking or otherwise supporting Bryan. They will vote the republican ticket.

It would not be surprising if the money lenders of the east should want a change. The interest rates are fearfully low and there is no large demand for money at any rate. The money they have loaned to Nebraska farmers is returning and they would like to loan it again at higher rates.

The fusion press is now busy apologizing for Poynter's mistakes. Many had hoped they would not be compelled to support him, but are doing so under protest and with apology. A candidate compelled to open his campaign with nothing but apologies is in a miserable position indeed.

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THE NEWS.

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