

always been better able to explain his transmutations than Thurston has to illuminate the reasons for his being pro-silver one year and anti-silver another year.

The republicans may, and in all probability will, have the power to name the next United States senator from Nebraska. And any political organization which has that power ought to feel the great responsibility of rightfully using it for the promotion of the best interests and the exaltation of the best citizenship of this growing and prosperous commonwealth. Nothing emasculates the reputation of a state with such certainty as the promotion of unworthy characters to occupy its high places. The experience of the republican party in Nebraska teaches that nothing can so speedily convert a majority into a minority as the election to responsible positions of men who are mentally and morally irresponsible.

That the coming election of a United States senator may result in a wise choice and give Nebraska a representative in Washington of whom even his opponents may be proud is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

THE C. O. D. VOTE.

Elections bring out the weakness of this form of government and make visible the festering fact that self-government is full of self-rottenness.

During the campaign for the presidency in 1896 the fabulous sums of money contributed to each of the national committees were from time to time reported in the newspapers of the country. Everybody knew that everywhere, all over this self-glorifying republic, men were being bought and sold and cash being deposited for votes by both the Bryan and McKinley managers. The silver mine and bullion owners were constantly contributing to that party which was pledged to convert their crude metal into currency at the price of one dollar and twenty-nine cents an ounce.

The friends of McKinley were likewise raising money by untiring solicitations, and even by threats, from the protected industries. Fat was fried out of every man or manufactory that was to get a benefit from the monopoly of the American market which protection was promised to secure him. Everywhere the pledge of protection was given to get money with which to carry on the campaign.

A campaign of education carried on by careful students and teachers who have consciences that will not permit them to lie, cajole or deceive is a good thing for any sort of people. And it is only fair to admit that such campaigns are often attempted in good faith by many competent citizens. And further there is no doubt that many voters are enlightened and convinced by such edu-

cational campaigns. But there are frequently more dollars disbursed among strikers and heelers than are paid out for printing and circulating essays, speeches, or arguments. There are more dollars disbursed by the agents and emissaries of the two parties on the day of election for the direct purchase of the votes of the vicious and the ignorant, than are paid out during the three preceding months for all the oratorical and printing expenses put together.

Why lull ourselves to sleep when the republic is being gangrened by the rottenness and leprosy of the C. O. D. voter? We all know that if the intelligent and honest voters of the United States, who differ upon economic and financial questions with the most intense sincerity were mustered into two armies and made to face each other and then the C. O. D. voters should come in between them and at last join one of them, the one joined would have a majority of all the votes in the United States.

Who is so imbecile as not to remember and realize the fact that the struggle for votes in 1896 was a struggle between the purses of silver on one side and the purses of protection on the other? Who so stupid as not to know that votes in the United States, votes among the masses, votes among common councilmen, votes among county commissioners and votes among legislators have frequently become merchandise in this land of the free and home of the brave?

How long will it be before the market reports shall name from day to day the going rates of votes? Plain citizen votes at the polls? Legislative votes for United States senators? The votes of members of the United States senate and house?

How much? How long?

CURRENCY LEGISLATION.

During the campaign populistic orators and office-seekers in the state of Nebraska endeavored to frighten the people with the financial atrocities which they alleged were contained in the McCleary bill. Everywhere they talked themselves hoarse in depicting the outrage and oppression which would come down, like an avalanche, upon the plain people of the United States the moment the federal government secured a divorce from the banking business.

From the rostrum and the press the fusionists rolled off carloads of terrifying predictions based on the possible fact that the bankers of the United States might, under proposed legislation, be permitted to alone furnish the paper currency of the United States. The legislative result in Nebraska indicates that a majority were not badly frightened. Bankers ought to do the banking, millers the milling and trans-

portation companies the carrying trade of this entire republic.

The greenbacks ought to be retired.

The treasury department should resume its normal and legal business of economically collecting and honestly disbursing the revenues of the government.

Governmental banking is paternalism as much as is the free seed distribution by governmental agencies.

A NEW PARTY: THE CONSERVATIVE.

There is need of a political party in the United States which can live without traditions and promulgate policies and principles without fear of running amuck with its own precedents and platforms.

A conservative party for the United States which can easily be formed by a realignment of the best elements of existing political organizations would advance civilization and good government by ignoring all the fallacies and follies of the old parties and proclaiming itself for an honest, frugal and constitution-respecting administration of national affairs.

The objections to a new party are not insufferable. The republican party was organized in 1854. It ran Fremont for the presidency in 1856. It elected Lincoln—because of a divided democracy—a minority president in 1860.

At Independence Hall in Philadelphia, 4th of July, 1899, would be a good place and time to hold a national convention of conservatives.

"CRIMINAL AGGRESSION."

Of the untried measures there remain only recognition of the insurgents as belligerents, recognition of the independence of Cuba, neutral intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants, and intervention in favor of one or the other party. *I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of morality, would be criminal aggression.*—President McKinley's message of last December.

Deafness is a most deplorable misfortune, and there are many inventions to soften the lot of sufferers from it. Some are enabled to hear through their ears by means of trumpets of various shapes, others through their teeth by means of a sounding-board. It has been often remarked how much better some people can hear over the telephone than they can in direct conversation, and now comes a St. Louis inventor with a portable telephone for that purpose. The deaf man carries a small battery in his pocket, presents a regular transmitter to the one who wishes to talk to him, and puts an ordinary receiver to his own ear.