

The Conservative.

Sawyer A. J.
11/29

VOL. 1.

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB., THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1899.

NO. 29.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

OFFICES: OVERLAND THEATRE BLOCK.

J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL QUESTIONS.

CIRCULATION THIS WEEK 5,439 COPIES.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One dollar and a half per year, in advance, postpaid, to any part of the United States or Canada. Remittances made payable to The Morton Printing Company.

Address, THE CONSERVATIVE, Nebraska City, Neb.

Advertising Rates made known upon application.

Entered at the postoffice at Nebraska City, Neb., as Second Class matter, July 29th, 1898.

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPLIMENT.

Some years since, in a conversation, relative to the sale of American meats in Germany, Baron Von Thielman, then representing that country at Washington, was informed that it was difficult to portray a more exalted confidence reposed by one nation in another nation than the generous and wholesale consumption of its sausages. The Baron smiled and said:

"You know we have a very witty proverb among our people which runs thus: 'The sausage is food fit for the gods because only the gods can tell what it is made of.'"

Then, as now, all the charges against American pork, pork products, and American beef and beef products, originated with the protectionists of Germany. The producers of meats in that country denounced pork and beef as infested with parasites, because they wished the German market a monopoly for themselves; they thus endeavored to shut out competition. Trichinae and other long Latin-named parasites were the disguise of German McKinleyism—European tariff for protection.

NEGATIVE MEN. To become very popular and to attract and retain, even for a short time, the unanimous acclaim of the multitude in the United States, negativism is essential. The complaisant, non-combative man who can agree, or seem to agree, with almost everybody, on almost every question, is always a popular man. The public life of the United States during the last seventy-five years has been

luminously illustrative of the success of negative men.

Conkling was a positive, able, accomplished statesman and as a student of statecraft had few equals among his contemporaries in congress, either while he was a member of the house or senate. To Conkling all the tricks and complacency, the pretense and the subserviency of the mere place-hunting politician were disgusting and nauseating. He never descended to the level of the negative class of statesmen. But his bitter rival, James G. Blaine, seldom rose above it. Blaine was never anything else than negative at the dawn of a new question or condition. Blaine only became positive after a seemingly strong public sentiment had concentrated and expressed itself among members of the republican party. In that way he sometimes posed quite successfully as a positive character. But as a rule he never intended to be positive upon any question which had not been positively answered either affirmatively or negatively by the republican party.

Even today there are men before the American people who, though naturally negative, seem very positive. Men sometimes misinterpret the mind, trend and intentions of the people and committing themselves in accordance with the erroneous interpretation are too negative to recant. Such men hang on to all sorts of fallacies, long after their repudiation by the mass of the people whom they first sought to conciliate and to follow, while posing as their leaders. The men who have no records are usually the most successful in partisan politics. The man who has a life as blank as a sheet of unwritten paper is not so easily criticized as one whose entire existence has been of strenuous endeavors and ceaseless struggles.

A lawyer without a client, a statesman without a statute, a soldier without a battle, a financier without a dollar, a philanthropist without a single human being bettered by his works, or a general counsel and solicitor giving advice never asked for, is always invulnerable to assaults, because he has made no positive and only a negative record.

Encouraged no doubt by the example of Colonel John Hay, the pope announces that he will write a poem. His theme, however, will be a religious matter and he will express himself in the Latin language.

WATERED STOCK. Many populists and communists constantly talk, write and publish the wickedness of watered stock. They never define it. None of them ever tells just what the iniquity consists of nor why it is so malevolent and unpardonable.

THE CONSERVATIVE, however, is informed that the owners of railroad and other corporate property sometimes issue new mortgage bonds or new certificates of stock to represent increased values in their property. These increased values have been evolved by increased capabilities for earning money by carrying freight and passengers or by other improved earning capacities. Frequently the state has marked up the values of corporate property by assessments and collections of taxes for the public revenue and there has never been any reason given as to why the state should not do that. And if the state may see, recognize and fix an enhanced value for the purposes of its revenues no reason has been assigned as to why the owners themselves may not also have certificates representing the greater selling value of the property.

In Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, Missouri and other Western states land

Land Owners. owners along the lines of many railroads have also marked up the values of their real estate. In Nebraska THE CONSERVATIVE has witnessed the rise of raw prairie land from one dollar and twenty-five cents to twenty-five and fifty dollars an acre. And this enhancement has come not because of any effort or expenditure upon, or about, these lands on the part of their owners. In fact THE CONSERVATIVE has observed lands mortgaged to secure cash loans for sums aggregating ten and twelve times more than their owners paid for those lands. Have land owners then differed very much from the owners of railroads in raising their values for the purposes of borrowing money? Have they or have they not been watering their stock? Along every railroad track in Nebraska lands have steadily advanced in selling prices for more than twenty years. And this advance has been largely founded upon the fact that the products of those lands could be and would be taken to market at a reasonable rate of transportation.

Here in Otoe county within twenty-five miles of Nebraska City in 1866 lands were offered for sale, by advertisement,