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J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

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PENSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Why, THE CONSERVATIVE would like to know, should the decade from 1880 to 1890 show more than seven hundred millions paid for pensions, when that from 1870 to 1880 shows less than four hundred millions? Have pension laws sometimes been made the means of converting rolls of honor into lists of mere beneficiaries, regardless of services or disabilities, merely to gain or perpetuate party power? How shall revenues be devised that can automatically adjust themselves to the ever-expanding extravagance of pension laws which add annually to the rolls more than time and death remove? No good citizen objects to pensions for those real soldiers who incurred genuine disabilities in the service or consequent upon the service. But the thousands of men who draw pensions from the government of the United States, because by sworn testimony they proved themselves victims of chronic diseases, and at the same time have policies in life insurance companies to which they have solemnly declared themselves free from all chronic maladies, aggregate a stupendous swindle upon citizens who pay taxes or upon those who carry life insurance. Why should not investigation be made and such cases eliminated from the pension rolls? How can any man, without perjuring himself, have a pension because he has a chronic disorder and a life-insurance policy because he has not such an affliction? And how many thousands of such cases now stain the pension rolls can only be ascertained by an

investigation—which can be carried on easily and inexpensively—in which the government and the life-insurance companies shall cooperate. Why not petition congress to order such an inquiry? Who can be injured by it? Can honorable, truthful, and meritorious veterans suffer from such a cleansing of the pension rolls?

The recent calumnies heaped upon Commissioner of Pensions Evans by those who deem it the duty of government to be still more liberal in granting pensions should align every fair-minded citizen who wishes only just pensions for meritorious and deserving soldiers among the friends and defenders of Evans.

The special acts for pensions should be fewer and the aggregate appropriations for pensions less from year to year. The fact that there are now on the pension rolls more names than there ever were on the rosters of the Union army should cause thoughtful legislators to pause and investigate. The fact that the number now drawing pensions from the government of the United States if added to the number applying for pensions would aggregate more than the number of all the men who belonged to the Union army during the entire civil war should cause deliberation and inquiry. Some time a limit as to the capability and willingness to pay pension must be reached by the American taxpayers.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The World-Herald of July 13, 1899, publishes the National Campaign Fund for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 so far contributed in Nebraska. Most of the subscriptions develop in towns where Coin Harvey has lectured. Up to the 13th there had been paid in cash, for the purpose of educating voters to believe that the enacted legal ratio between the coins of gold and silver fixes the value in the markets of those two metals—six hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$654)! And subscriptions to be paid hereafter up to that date amount to three thousand nine hundred and five dollars and twenty-five cents (\$3,905.25.)

Tecumseh is a liberal giver, and Aurora, Falls City, Fairbury, Kearney and Auburn exhibit generous zeal in their donations to bring about the debasement of the national standard of value.

THE CONSERVATIVE awaits the showing from Nebraska City and Otoe

county with curiosity and will be pleased to publish the names of contributors in those localities. Everybody realizes the power of the advocates of silver hereabouts in erecting the industrial plants of Nebraska City and will therefore expect large subscriptions from the sixteen-to-one owners thereof.

ASTONISHING ANTAGONISMS.

Sometime since THE CONSERVATIVE declared itself

willing to pay a round sum for the proof that any of the noted populist leaders in Nebraska had ever in commercial, professional, manufacturing or agricultural pursuits made twenty-five hundred dollars a year.

The offer has elicited several assertions and the names of several populists have been handed in as belonging to lawyers who were making an income of three thousand or more.

THE CONSERVATIVE is astonished for these same gentlemen declared all over Nebraska, that under "the gold standard"—even in 1892—nobody could make enough income to decently live thereon. How can these patriots reconcile their previous statements as to the universal poverty of all callings in Nebraska, under the gold standard, with their present declaration that for years and years they had received incomes of more than twenty-five hundred dollars a year?

Did they tell lies to their audiences when speaking in political campaigns or are they telling lies now? Who shall THE CONSERVATIVE believe, the man who paraded his poverty, everybody else's poverty and wallowed in calamity before the election; or the same man, and his friends, when after election it is asserted that he always for years made every twelve months more than \$2,500.00?

"Cabinet officers have been dismissed by presidents within recent times, for far less offences than Alger has committed," says The Pittsburg Dispatch (rep.) "But Alger does not appear to regard dismissal as a possibility any more than he regards resignation as proper, and the observant public will be disposed to take the Algerine view of the possibility just as it does not accept that view of the propriety. His whole attitude is equivalent to the inquiry: 'What is this administration here for, if not to suffer any embarrassment my conduct may create? Am I not chief custodian of contracts and franchises?'"