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J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

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FARMERS PAYING OFF DEBT.

\$3,200,000 Decrease in Six Months for Nebraska Farm Mortgages.

The Corn Belt, published by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway, has compiled mortgage statistics for the state of Nebraska for the first six months of this year. The total number of farm mortgages filed during the period covered it reports as 10,314, and the amount \$11,842,032.14. The number of farm mortgages satisfied was 14,126, amounting to \$14,656,801.53. The number of city and town mortgages filed was 3,380, amounting to \$2,856,125.24. The town and city mortgages satisfied were 3,989, amounting to \$5,001,295.44. The total number of chattel mortgages filed was 45,358 amounting to \$17,523,533.12, and chattel mortgages satisfied were 24,306, amounting to \$11,658,376.59.

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW.

Politically today is not a photograph of yesterday nor a portraiture of tomorrow.

In 1883 Hoadley was made democratic governor of Ohio over Fire Alarm Foraker by a plurality of more than twelve thousand. But the next year, 1884, Blaine had thirty-one thousand more votes than Cleveland.

In 1883 the republicans lost New York state by from thirteen to eighteen thousand, and in 1884 it gave Grover Cleveland its electoral vote by only one thousand and forty-seven.

In 1887 New York elected all five state

officers over the republican nominees by pluralities running from eleven to seventeen thousand. But in 1888 Harrison had fourteen thousand votes more than Cleveland.

McKinley carried Ohio in 1891 by a plurality of more than twenty-one thousand, while in 1892 the largest majority for any Harrison elector was only one thousand and seventy-two and one Cleveland elector was chosen.

In Iowa Boies was elected governor in 1891 by a plurality of nearly eight thousand, but in 1892 Iowa gave a plurality of more than twenty thousand for Harrison.

With the foregoing facts and figures in front of Forecaster Grosvenor and other political soothsayers and prophets it is hardly safe even for the oracles of Bryanarchy to predict the presidential vote of next year. This caution to those who said in 1896 that no prosperity could prevail in the United States until after the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 had been permanently established is quite necessary.

AN ACCOUNTING.

THE CONSERVATIVE has no doubt as to the speedy rendition and publication of the expenditures of money made by the fusionists and the republicans during the late campaign for a judgeship of the supreme court of Nebraska. The respective state committees are, perhaps, according to law forced to tell how much cash they each put into the campaign. The plain people await the publicity of expenditures with intense curiosity. "The God-made man," of whom Colonel Bryan frequently discourses, would be dreadfully shocked to learn that in the vicissitudes, anxieties and ambitions of political strife there had been evolved, by accident, a dollar-made judge!

SUFFERING.

A venerable pioneer of Nebraska was complaining of rheumatism, its tortures in joints and limbs, to his physician who informed him that sciatica quite often prevailed, among elderly people, during the first days of November. Thereupon the aged man said: "Yes, sciatica is awful and terribly hard to bear; but it is honorable and agreeable and pleasant compared to Si Holcomb." The poor old fellow is now an inmate of the asylum for the chattel mortgage insane.

UNANIMITY.

The republican newspapers, and especially those zealous in their support of McKinleyism, are unanimous in declaring that Colonel Bryan, by virtue of the fusion victory in Nebraska, is the logical candidate for the presidency against Pecksniff McKinley in 1900 and that no other will be or can be nominated.

There is a suspicious fervor in the praise bestowed upon Colonel Bryan by the unanimity of republican editors now by acclamation nominating him for the competitor of McKinley next year. There is even a suggestion in their unanimity that the national republican committee aided in the election of the fusionists of Nebraska in 1899, so as to ensure Bryan's nomination in 1900.

FORECASTS.

The political press of the United States is now busily engaged in the prediction and general prophecy business as to the presidential campaign of 1900. But as the weather bureau wisely refrains from making forecasts of storm, rain, wind, or sunshine and tranquillity, for more than forty-eight hours ahead, so the wiser prognosticators of political events decline to proclaim what may happen in American politics a year from this time. There are elements and conditions possible for 1900 which are unknown and undreamed of in 1899. Those prophets of 1896 who presaged commercial ruin a certain and quick result of the non-free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 are not very credible as oracles.

DECIDED.

The voters of Nebraska decided November 7th, 1899, that there was no "criminal aggression" when Holcomb put part of the house rent in his personal pocket but only "benevolent assimilation."

When a man takes a horse in the night time from the stable of a person incompetent for self-government the act does not constitute larceny. It is merely forcible and justifiable "annexation" of the aforesaid equine quadruped to a "new sovereignty." The microscopy of morals in Nebraska is a most instructive line of investigation. There are some virulent microbes at work upon the body of truth, and infesting the tissues of public honesty are some strange bacilli.