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THE AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH.

In the work of James Bryce on the government of the United States, which every thoughtful and patriotic citizen ought to read, THE CONSERVATIVE finds the following, which members of the Nebraska legislature may, at this critical juncture of a contest for two United States senators, study with possible profit:

"The smallness and permanence of the senate have, however, another important influence on its character. They contribute to one main cause of its success, the superior intellectual quality of its members. Every European who has described it has dwelt on the capacity of those who compose it, and most have followed De Tocqueville in attributing this capacity to the method of double election. The choice of senators by the state legislatures is supposed to have proved a better means than direct choice by the people of discovering and selecting the fittest men."

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"It is no more surprising that the average capacity of the senate should surpass that of the house, than that the average cabinet minister of Europe should be abler than the average member of the legislature."

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"A man must have had considerable experience of affairs, and of human nature in its less engaging aspects, before he enters this august conclave."

Among the many prominent candidates now before the legislature at Lincoln are some men who quite acceptably fill the measure for United States senators, described by Mr. Bryce. It is hoped by all who have patriotic pride in the citizenship of Nebraska that senators of the best and highest character—

intellectual and social—men distinguished for straightforward honesty may be speedily elected. The honor and the conscience of the state should be incarnated in its senators.

Originally there were only twenty-six members of the United States senate. In the beginning it was a small body of large men and in recent years it has, at times, been a large body of small men.

During the first five years of its existence the senate sat with closed doors. It discussed treaties, appointments by the executive, and made such discussion and private conferences with members of the cabinet and the president the chief duties and occupation of senators.

Not until 1816 did the United States senate create standing committees. The senate of today is an evolution. It has gained legislative authority without losing executive powers relating to treaties and appointments. It is the only legislative assembly in the world exercising legislative, executive and judicial functions. It ought to be composed of men who, within constitutional limitations, can intelligently and efficiently assist the senate to wisely use all of its powers.

COMMUNAL HEREDITY.

In 1856 New England was sending Yankees, Beecher rifles and bibles to Kansas in carload lots to make it a free state. The same year the slaveholding South was shipping into Kansas bowie knives, guns and a game lot of fighting cavaliers to make it a slave state. Thus the commonwealth of Kansas came into existence through turmoil, strife and bloodshed. The territorial or pre-natal condition of the state made an indelible birth-mark upon its emotional and intellectual nature. Kansas has always been, from the date of its admission to the Union in 1861, phenomenally hysterical. It has gone from the paroxysmal convulsions of prohibition on one day into the idiotic contortions and gyrations of populism the next day. It has been most radically republican one year, giving eighty thousand majority for that party, while denouncing, with intensest bigotry and intolerance, all ex-confederate soldiers as worthy of damnation, and another year electing an

ex-confederate colonel to represent it in the United States senate.

In the early days Kansas welcomed negroes to become its citizens and with fervor advocated the rights of Africans as equal to those of Caucasians; and now Kansas burns negroes at the stake and howls in savage glee while the flesh of the victim crackles in the flames. Verily there is such a thing as communal heredity.

THE REFORM ARMY.

The Independent which is the principal populist periodical in Nebraska speaks of "the different sections of the reform army." But that valuable illustrator of vagaries fails to tell the wondering public whether it belongs to the eastern division of the reform army, commanded by General Croker of New York, or the western division of the same, which is commanded and glorified by Senator Clark of Montana.

"Great is Tammany and Croker is its prophet," and when reforming in columns is required, for campaign purposes, Croker is the cheering chum of the presidential candidate of all populism. And for contributions to the cause of reform, who gave more than Senator Clark of Montana? Croker, Clark and reform forever!

PATRONAGE.

THE CONSERVATIVE is ambitious to conserve the best interests of the social, professional and industrial life of the people. The wider its circulation, and the more general and generous its patronage the better it can promote those interests. THE CONSERVATIVE is not a partisan periodical. It tries to teach the importance of a refined and intellectual home-life. It endeavors to make all classes of the American people understand the interdependence of labor and capital. It antagonizes class legislation for any industry, sect, creed or association of whatsoever kind. But it has the courage also to stand up for the rights of incorporations as well as for those of individuals. It sees and knows how incorporations have dared and risked and vanquished in struggles with natural obstacles, with the asperities of the mountains and the plains, where private persons and individual capital stood aghast and powerless. THE CONSERVATIVE is in the field for honest money, for arboriculture, for the elevation and embellishment of American homes. THE CONSERVATIVE desires a larger and constantly increasing patronage.