

# The Conservative.

VOL. IV. NO. 28.

NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, JANUARY 16, 1902.

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

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, 13,983 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, Nebraska.

Advertising rates made known upon application.

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

## THE SCHOOL TRUST.

The recent convocation in Lincoln of more than a thousand Nebraska school teachers is another reminder of the growing tyranny of the public school trust. The alleged commercial trusts are localized, and differentiated from opposing interests and forces; but the influences and the empire of the school trust are omnipresent from sea to sea, and from gulf to British border. This vast organization has ostensibly a beneficent and largely unselfish object, and it represents an institution which is beneficent when confined to a proper scope. This sentimental and philanthropic aspect of the public school system has served to veil its faults from public insight. The great importance of a good primary education for their children and the difficulty of providing it filled the early settlers of our still new country with a spirit of solicitude and self-sacrifice in that behalf as ardent as that which animated the crusaders to the holy land or stirred the emotions of the religious devotee in those days when the belief was held that religious faith was efficacious and essential to save from the fires of a literal hell. And so the mission of the public school and the public school teacher has been idealized, while they have gradually become organized into an aggressive, oppressive commercial trust. Broader fields and more public money to enable us to exploit theories is their motto. The obtrusive feature of the present public school system is extravagance—in expense and in the amount and scope of work forced upon the pupils. The

school trust is in a state of selfish aggressive commercial expansion. In the cities there is universal groaning under the increasing burdens of taxation imposed by extravagant and commonly corrupt school boards; but the clamor of the school cult is ever for more.

But financial extravagance is not as hurtful as the extravagant amount and variety of work imposed upon the pupils. Teachers in each department have their particular fads and are convinced of the paramount importance of their particular line of instruction; so that in the round-up of these contending ambitions the courses of study in the public schools of today are expanded and stuffed until they exceed in dimension and detail the college courses of not many years ago, and mere children are forced with this pabulum, digestible only by mature minds. As a result, before they have become young men and women, pupils become old, nervous and worn, and fitter for that land where the wicked teachers cease from troubling and weary children are at rest from them, than for the strenuous struggles and healthy enjoyments of this present life.

Our imperfect social organism moves by the rule of action and reaction, and a reaction against the headlong course of the school system is now due. The Conservative at this opportune time throws out these not extravagant hints in the hope that the setting-in of the reaction may be thereby expedited.

Ninety-seven years ago this week, Captains LEWIS AND CLARK.

Lewis and Clark and their little band were still visiting the "gentlemanly" Mandans on the banks of the Missouri river, in what is now North Dakota. They were occupying themselves with hunting, and observing the customs of the natives.

On Monday, the 14th, "One of the men sent out on Thursday returned, with information that one of his companions had his feet so badly frost-bitten that he could not walk home. In their excursion they had killed a buffalo, a wolf, two porcupines and a white hare. The weather was more moderate today, the mercury being at sixteen degrees below zero."

On Tuesday, the 15th, "The morning is much warmer than yesterday, and the snow begins to melt. Between 12 and 3 o'clock a. m. there, was a total

eclipse of the moon, from which we obtained a part of the observation necessary for ascertaining the longitude. We were visited by four of the most distinguished men of the Minnetarees, to whom we showed marked attentions, as we know they had been taught to entertain strong prejudices against us; these we succeeded in removing."

On Wednesday, the 16th, "About thirty Mandans, among whom six were chiefs, came to see us; the Minnetarees reproached them with their falsehoods, declaring that they were bad men and ought to hide themselves. They had told the Minnetarees that we would kill them if they came to the fort, yet on the contrary they had spent a night there, and been treated with kindness by the whites, who had smoked with them and danced for their amusement. Kagohami visited us and brought us a little corn; and soon afterwards one of the first war chiefs of the Minnetarees came, accompanied by his squaw. He favored us with a most acceptable present, a draft of the Missouri in his manner, and informed us of his intention to go to war in the spring against the Snake Indians; we advised him to reflect seriously before he committed the peace of his nation to the hazards of war; to look back upon the numerous nations whom war has destroyed; that if he wished his nation to be happy, he should cultivate peace and intercourse with all his neighbors, by which means they would procure more horses, and increase in numbers; and that if he went to war, he would displease his Great Father, the President, and forfeit his protection. We added, that we had spoken thus to all the tribes whom we had met, that they had all opened their ears, and that the President would compel those who did not voluntarily listen to his advice. Although a young man of only twenty-six years of age, this discourse seemed to strike him. He observed, that if it would be displeasing to us he would not go to war, since he had horses enough, and that he would advise all the nation to remain at home, until he had seen the Snake Indians, and discovered whether their intentions were pacific."

At Cleveland, Ohio, very recently, the populist candidate for the presidency said: "Sad will be the day, fallen will be the star of our