

The Conservative.

VOL. IV. NO. 31.

NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, FEBRUARY 6, 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, 14,000 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 delight with which the average protectionist exhorter denounces free trade, as English, and yells in paroxysmal wrath about the Cobden Club, is known of all men. Therefore, a historical fact which The Conservative herewith submits, is refreshing and refuting. The celebrated report of Robert J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States during the administration of James K. Polk, was published in December, 1845. On page 12 near the center is the following:

"Commerce, agriculture, and navigation, harassed as they may be by foreign restrictions, diminishing the amount of exchangeable products which they could otherwise purchase abroad, are burdened with heavier impositions at home. Nor will augmented duties here lead to a reduction of foreign tariffs, but the reverse, by furnishing the protected classes there with the identical argument used by the protected classes here against reduction. By countervailing restrictions we injure our own fellow-citizens much more than the foreign nations at whom we propose to aim their force; and in the conflict of opposing tariffs we sacrifice our own commerce, agriculture and navigation. As well might we impose monarchical or aristocratic restrictions on our own government or people, because that is the course of foreign legislation. Let us, with revenue duties only, open our ports to all the world, and nation after nation will soon follow our example. If we reduce our tariff, the party opposed

to the corn laws of England would soon prevail, and admit all our agricultural products at all times, freely into her ports, in exchange for her exports. *And if England would now repeal her duties upon our wheat, flour, Indian corn and other agricultural products, our own restrictive system would certainly be doomed to overthrow.*"

(The italics are The Conservative's.) This report is invaluable as a reference book, and particularly soothing to a free trader, because it proves that the United States preached free trade before England advocated it or repealed her infamous corn laws, which excluded, by prohibitory tariffs, the products of our farms from her markets.

PAGAN ARBORICULTURE.

Cicero, in his "Tusculan Disputations," talks of tree-planting. He declares that the labors of the man who plants trees, "shall be enjoyed by after ages. What is the purpose of the tree-planter? It is to benefit posterity."

"Shall then the industrious farmer plant trees, of which he shall never see the fruit? And, on the other hand, shall not the statesman plant laws, institutions and republics?"

This shows that long before the birth of Christ, arboriculture was planning for posterity and endeavoring to make the world more beautiful and better. The tree-planter of the Present arbor-phones his affectionate solicitude for the welfare of Posterity to all the coming generations, whose Present will be made out of our Future. Plant trees!

OIL.

Elder Smith, who lives just south of Nebraska City, reports indications of coal oil, so strong in a well of his 47 feet deep, that the water is undrinkable because of the petroleum flavor and smell. There are others who report oleaginous symptoms upon their lands in Otoe county, and it is high time that the earth beneath us should be perforated to a sufficient depth to demonstrate that we have either coal, oil or artesian water. Messrs. Rodenbrock and Buhlman are circulating a subscription paper for the purpose of raising money for making investigations as to what is concealed beneath us. Already the subscriptions amount to quite a sum of money, and it is sincerely hoped that the work may be begun within the next sixty days.

BARTLEY'S PREDECESSORS.

The Fremont Tribune seems affectionately solicitous about a long line of republican predecessors to Bartley in the office of State Treasurer, and differs from The Conservative as to the propriety of the pardon of Bartley by Governor Savage. The esteemed Tribune ignores the custom of former State Treasurers, which permitted the deposit of public funds in banks friendly to the ruling party. It ignores the fact, that in republican state conventions, for nearly a generation, promises of such deposits did secure nominations. It is either ignorant or forgetful that Willard was nominated for State Treasurer of Nebraska years ago because of the promise of a loan of twenty-five thousand dollars of public money to a certain republican banker in Alma. And has that money ever been repaid to the state? Did or did not that note pass from State Treasurer to State Treasurer as cash? Could a custom like this do otherwise than influence Bartley to accede to and obey it? The Conservative does not ask the Fremont Tribune or anybody else to take "Mr. Morton's unsupported testimony * * * against previous State Treasurers," but it challenges the records—if they have been kept intact—to show that he has misstated their case?

What Bartley did with the state warrant proceeds, about which the Tribune talks, nobody knows definitely. Perhaps United States Senator Millard, who has stated that the said warrant came into the Omaha National for payment as the property of the Chemical National, of New York City, is as well posted as anybody except Bartley can be?

The Conservative has not endeavored to exculpate Bartley because many of his predecessors notoriously handled state funds just as he did, and happened to escape detection and destruction. But it has objected, and it does now object, to making Bartley a vicarious sacrifice for all the sins of his party and its representatives and agents. The Conservative wishes to inculcate the other guilty men of all parties who may have mishandled or misappropriated state cash or allowed partisan favorites to do so and screened them from punishment. We have no excuse for Bartley except that he was in bad company, surrounded by bad influences and inspired by a long line of bad precedents. And now we