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# The Conservative.

A Journal devoted to the discussion of political, economic and sociological questions. } FOUNDED BY J. STERLING MORTON.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT.

Next week's issue of The Conservative will be a memorial number to Mr. Morton, containing only matter relating to his life and death. With it, publication of The Conservative will cease. It will carry no advertisements. After the present issue, therefore, advertising contracts remaining in force will be carried out by the semi-weekly edition of our daily paper, which will also be mailed to Conservative subscribers for the remainder of their term. Any who prefer will receive a cash refund instead, upon filing claim.

A number of requests for back numbers of The Conservative having been received, notice is hereby given that such applications will be honored as fully as possible in the order in which they are filed. Some early numbers are now extremely scarce, and we cannot at present undertake to furnish complete sets, although a limited number may be available later.

MORTON PRINTING COMPANY.

## EXPRESSIVE IF INELEGANT.

A new slang term has been coined, and like many of its kind it is more expressive than any more classic synonym. Just how the latest vulgarity, "knocker," started would be difficult to state, but its uses are many and it is a really important addition to the country's store of slang.

It applies to the countryman who curses any enterprising act of his country, and whose vote is always cast against anything that smacks of progress.

It applies to the citizen of a municipality who is always ostensibly at work for the interests of his city, but somehow manages to break two or three breeching straps a year, without even straining a stitch in collar or tugs.

It applies to the deacon who thinks that if the old organ was good enough for the old organist, it is good enough for the new one, and to the lodge brother who suggests that the leaky roof could be allowed to leak until spring without any material damage being done.

It applies most directly to the boy who prays that the school nine will be beaten, because he was not chosen to pitch, and the mature citizen who takes

his family out of town on the Fourth because he was not selected as a fit person to fire off the anvil, lead the procession, read the Declaration of Independence, or fill whatever position he most covets.

Now that a liberal Omaha jurist has decided that "puff" is a better word than "advertise," we suggest that in his next finding he introduce the word "knocker" as far superior to "unenterprising," "envious," "jealous," "narrow," or "disgruntled."

From this week's Union (Neb.) Ledger we clip the following:

"Those who are disposed to work for the advancement of their town can accomplish but little if a few back-number plodders spend their time criticising or opposing every move that is made."

And the disgusted editor of the Blue Springs Sentinel clothes the sad thought in this common-place raiment:

"Some people have nothing else in life to do but sit around in the way and find fault with whatever someone else is trying to do."

Other editors from week to week tell the sad old story in the same sad old way. How much more luminous their idea would be could they, backed by judicial authority, rise to remark:

"This bloomin' town is full of knockers!"

## THE SAME OLD STORY.

Without one word having been uttered against it, loaded down with the hearty approval of every business or professional man who has acquainted himself with its provisions, the proposed Post check currency has failed in committee, where the bankers who could not muster one argument against it, to be offered through the press or upon the platform, made some silent but significant gestures, which completely convinced the members of the committee that the scheme is "unavailable."

Business men and farmers should take good care that future representatives should know that a scheme is "available" when the people favor it, and the class with which it competes can find nothing to say against it.

To sum up the matter, the Post check having been proven to be a good thing, and having been given the unreserved

endorsement of brainy men in all walks of life, has, of course, been defeated in congress.

Of course the campaign will be continued, as any movement so generally supported cannot fail to succeed eventually, despite the machinations of the bankers, powerful as they are. Public sentiment will in due course of time dispose of the present deformed method of transmitting wealth, just as it in due course of time disposed of the pillory and the ducking stool, and it is to be hoped that congress will "come out of it" in time to pass this beneficent law over the protest of a committee which until it offers some explanation of its extraordinarily pre-emptory refusal to endorse the Post check, must rest under the suspicion of having been "persuaded" in the way well known to any haunter of the capitol corridors.

The Oakland Enquirer reiterates the statement that there is nothing new under the sun, and fishes forth this story of an eye witness to the torture of a suspect, which took place in Paris in 1651:

"In this agonie, confessing nothing, the executioner with a horne (just such as they drench horses with) stuck the end of it into his mouth, and poured the quantity of two bouketts of water down his throat and over him, which so prodigiously swelled him, as would have pitied and affrighted any one to see it; for all this, he denied all that was charged to him. They then let him downe, and carried him before a warme fire to bring him to himself, being now to all appearance dead with paine."

It will be noted that the water cure was only resorted to after other means had failed. It will be also noted that this account varies from modern Associated Press descriptions of this torture, only in the quaint spelling and wording of the article.

A careful study of the market reports is sufficient to convince any reasonable person that the umbilical cord which binds wheat and silver together can be made of nothing but the best and most elastic grade of India rubber.