VAN WYCK'S VIEWS.

Continued from second page.

If lumber is becoming scarce and expensive, the greater reason why it should be allowed free. Can you imagine why a tax of so much per thousand feet should be imposed to fill pockets already overflowing. Thus you will see that all special and favored interests are imposing taxation directly or indirectly. The great mass of the people are continually made hewers of wood and drawers of water for the few. Each of those interests specially protected are ready to unite for common defense. When the attempt shall be made to remove the tax on lumber—wood—pulp, iron, every monopoly that the nation has protected through infancy to full grown manhood will unite to prevent any relief. There is no reason why agricultural industry and labor generally should be forever taxed to make more wealthy and powerful class interests which the people have already made strong by special legislation so that now they seek to dominate and control the policy of the government. Lately has appeared a new combination in the body politic in the Office Holders' Protective Union under the guise of civil service reform, the object being to insure life positions under government. This new dispensation is proclaimed principally by those in office reinforced by occasional outsiders, some bankers who much prefer all matters should run in the rut they have established, importers who know their men in the custom houses, contractors, star route and others, who, to a certain extent, own and control the bureaus with which they come in contact, others who always for obvious reasons want to be "let alone." But where is the evidence that the people endorse or desire this political jugglery. Constitutions of all the states provide short terms of office and some carefully guard the principle in the case of certain offices, notably treasurer and sheriff, where the officer might exercise great influence by the manipulation of his office for his re-election by providing that he shall not be eligible to re-election or a term should intervene between his holding. The people have emphatically decided, no matter how strong in their confidence and love, no man shall be elected a third term to the presidency. The dogma of these latter day political saints is the pharasaical assumption that no one except themselves and family and friends are worthy and competent to hold offices and that the present system of office holding is demoralizing and disgraceful. Why then do they not themselves retire to private life. They are always more patriotic than Artemus Ward, who sent his wife's relatives to the war. These men are willing to sacrifice their blood relatives, even children, by seeking and holding official positions. They are clamorous that the government should be administered on business principles. Precisely; that is just what we want and what we do not get at the hands of the reformers. What business in this or any country, even England, which is the beau ideal of a government, for those "holier than thou patriots" selects its officers, agents and employes after competetive examination. The government is not suffering to-day from want of business capacity. Now and then it takes detriment from want of honesty. It might be less objectionable if it would commence higher up; there would be the merit of consistency. If a clerk receiving $1,200 per annum can only enter after a severe examination, it would seem more important that the one drawing $2,000 should also, yet that is not required They leave the higher positions as rewards for political and partisan service, yet the inferior places must be filled by men of actual business capacity and education fitting them for professorships in college. Certainly! Have business qualifications, but have them where most needed. The idea of a committee of school masters, or meaner still, those not knowing as much as school masters, who, after long study, frame series of questions having no connection with the office to be filled the length of longest rivers, height of mountains, capitals of foreign countries, about squares, cubes and fractions, questions the examiners could not answer, except as they had studied the questions with the view of perplexing men with possibly more business qualifications and habits than themselves. One statement will explain. A person seeking a clerkship in the interior department was asked the distance of the sun from the earth at the nearest point. He replied: after leaving school he could have answered, at present he could not, although he could assure them it would probably not come near enough to interfere with the discharge of his duties as clerk in the interior department. So he was correct unless some Indian tribes inhabited the sun, and then the chances were that the department would somehow manage to put the redskins on his track with the most improved rifle and a flask of whisky.

Let reform commence at the top. Have men in charge of departments and bureaus who have more business qualifications than their employes; who will know whether the clerks are competent and the business properly conducted. If the people really desire a change in the policy of the administration, let the unseemly and sometimes disgraceful scramble for office stop with the great statesmen of the nation and no more schemes and devices to pack primaries, county and state conventions, no more mobs and claquers at national conventions. But if the head of the government must be changed then stop office hunting for cabinet positions. That is as disgraceful as a scramble for clerkships. Seven times seven candidates for each of the seven positions. Petitions, delegations, committees, inundated the president-elect. General Garfield was evidently more annoyed in the selection of his cabinet than by the application of comparatively few for the remaining 100,000 positions. It would be interesting to know which one of the present cabinet could inform the people how far distant was the sun from the earth at the nearest point.

If the gentlemen now filling cabinet positions are zealous civil service reformers, why did they not at an earlier and more opportune moment withdraw their friends from raids on the president for the seats they now fill? Why should they struggle for positions and not grant that high boon to the humblest citizen. The cabinet ministers say they are worried; why not? The president was worried by the importunities of their friends. The occasion of their worry is principally because they enter upon their office ignorant of the duties, probably more so than the man who is seeking a clerkship, and many months of perplexing and arduous labor is required to learn the rudiments and rules of their department, the principal part of which they must learn from the clerks under them, and for many months be instructed and dirceted by the employes. Will the reformers make a note of this? Doubtless while this perplexes, the application for position is the last feather, for every mole hill seems like a mountain to a weary man. It will be an unfortunate day to the republic when the citizen shall cease to be a politician or indifferent as to who shall seek or serve in office. It will be best for the people to retain the power they possess. No privileged few should be allowed to make office seeking or interfering in politics disgusting. The basest tyrannical governing power always has been an aristocracy. Venice lost the republic and the right of centuries when the people were cajoled, and delegated to the grand council of 400 the right of voting for magistrates. We are continually reminded of what England does. We were not aware there was much in the English government for a republic to copy, although we are aware there was a certain class in the country would like to extend the copy and establish a monarchy. The liberal and liberty loving Englishman will always find a warm place in the American heart, but the governing class cannot make models for us. This country will send no Yankee clocks run by dynamite to keep time, or end time even for her aristocracy. We remember in our darkest days, when the life of this nation was trembling in the balance the aid and sympathy England's Lords extended our foes. We remember her aristocracy not only allowed, but advanced money to build blockade runners. And we must be allowed at least to render sympathy for those of her people or under her yoke who feel oppressed. We rejoice that one of the evidences that America has not lived in vain, the moral effect of our example and the kindly offices of our sympathy have produced good fruit when parliament felt compelled to do partial justice to Ireland, to give a ray of hope to her toiling masses. To recognize the right of peasantry, to know they have some interest in the soil by allowing them what common justice would grant even to tenants on lands which did not contain the graves of their fathers and had not been ruthlessly taken away from their ancestors.

How unfortunate that our reformers did not utilize their business notions in that branch of the government where some benefits might result. Then thousands might not have been wasted on machinery to make sugar from corn stalks, and thousands more in the efforts to grow tea where tea could not possibly grow. No part of the government brings so great returns for the money expended as the postal service and the men employed in the railroad branch, toiling by night and day, when disabled or killed in the line of duty are as deserving of pensions as soldiers on the field of battle. Yet many of the most meritorious by reason of the insufficiency of the appropriation by congress has been reduced in salary. Millions for star routes, sums sufficiently large to divide, yet only hundreds for men in railway mail service. The late Postmaster General Key evidently needed some business qualification and a vast deal more honesty in his department.

The Indian bureau is another fine field for gleaning, a splendid opening for a new infusion of business tact. All the statesmen and all administrations have grappled with the problem and the Indian or the Indian agent and trader have unhorsed them all. All experiments here have been expensive failures. The last placing them under control of the religious societies made no improvement. Sentiment, fiction, poetry gush, if you please, will not subdue the wild Indian. An excuse is made for his outbreak because he has been wronged or robbed. Every reading person in America is cognizant of that fact. Do they not know, does not the department know, that nearly every man who is willing to leave a home of comfort in the eastern or middle states to hunt up and by the aid of civil service reform, secure an agency or tradership, or contract, does it not for the meagre salary, but in some way to filch from the Indian, to plunder him of his annuities, and defraud him of his goods. Even though the church sends him, —few men go in the name of the Lord

The appointing power so dearly prized by all presidents is surrendered not to the delegation in congress, who would at least desire to serve their state by appointing the most competent men to prevent collisions, and the destruction of property, and the massacre of innocent women and children, but the power is surrendered to the control of the irresponsible secretaries of the different societies located in the east, and they recommend, and the Indian commission with becoming modesty approves. The cabinet minister nods consent and the president appoints. The character of these appointments have done no credit either to the department or to the church. There has been the same inefficiency, the same robbery. The only men who seem to be ignorant of these facts, are the department and the government. They squander millions without any apparent care or concern and seem not to imagine any danger until the skies are aglow with burning buildings and the air filled with piercing shrieks of murdered settlers and soldiers massacred. Why will not the nation demand a halt in this villainous and bloody system? For every burning building every murdered man, woman, and child is but the result of a policy which every administration refuses to let go for no other reason than the patronage enjoyed and the profits to friends. Canby and his comrades at the Lava Beds, Custer and his command; now, part of Carr's command. Will not this suffice? The tears of the tender philanthropist will flow for the poor Indian: will the same eyes weep for the pioneer and his family escaping from the flames of his dwelling only to be brutally murdered or tortured by the malignant demons. All this rests with your government or rather with the people. Undoubtedly the Indian bureau, the interior department, the administration, could find honest, judicious, faithful men to fill the positions, but that never has been done and never will be. This system has been tried with nothing but failure, in millions of money squandered and rivers of blood. We invite settlers to the frontier and leave them to the merciless cruelty of the savage. We plant a little band of brave soldiers on the out-post, and then arm the most murderous of the tribes with better rifles than the soldiers command and leave them to be massacred. Have we not had full enough? How much more destruction and murder before the people will demand that this matter be placed in charge of the war department, saving the salarics of the vast army of agents and employes, but better still, put it in charge of men whose experience will guide and whose character will be a guaranty of fair treatment to the red man.

Let us pause a moment with a more pleasing theme, and prepare to ask of the government to do a substantial blessing for the masses in which nearly one-half the territory and population of the nation are deeply interested; that is to improve their own property, the great water courses; some of the grandest rivers on the continent—rivers draining empires in extent, in grandeur, in wealth of production. Give a small proportion of amounts hertofore expended on rivers having little water and no commerce; give a tithe of what has been bestowed on other improvements, and we will open and make permanent these highways to the sea.

We have been talking for years of danger from monopolies, yet to-day they are strongly entrenched, substantially controlling congress and many of the state legislatures. They do it through you, through the people, and the men whom you elect. You have the power, they the money and skill. They secure the best legal talent of the country at the bar, and too often on the bench. See the many contests between railroad land grants and the people. Generally the citizen is beaten. Will they claim that the law is on their side? Not always. Take a case in our own state in Thayer and other southern counties, where many had entered and purchased lands, obtained patents from government, spending in improvements their last dollar and labor of themselves and families, and paying the taxes; then comes a representative of the Denver and St. Joe claiming the lands. The department decides against him, the humble owners still make improvements sustained by patents and decisions of department. The representative of the railroad bides his time, confident that in the courts he has a firm friend and waits until the claim is nearly outlawed, then by a species of jugglery well-known to those who can utilize the courts, by a robbery worse than any English landlord would dare perpetrate, seeks to wrest the title from those who had the best possible title, a government patent, lands improved and taxes paid for ten years. And they find a court ready to obey the infamous demands, and by a most outrageous decision order the land to the robber chief. Had this villainy been attempted in Ireland, a wild cry would have rung throughout the land. But the end of that crime is not yet, and we trust a power may be found to keep the spoiler from his prey.

The remedy for this and other evils of administration is with the people. They may not always prevent abuses, but they can soon check and utterly destroy the authors of them. They must have a greater knowledge, and take a deeper interest in politics from the ward and precinct caucuses to the election of president. Two parties are organized and established on well defined principles. Sentiment is very well to hold men to a political platform, yet while struggling for the sentiment be careful that the organization does not drift under the control of men who prefer self-interest and dollars to sentiment or even patriotism. Let the people stop long enough, not to change parties, but to change leaders occasionally. The people generally content themselves by making an effort to reach the polls one day in the year and if his party is successful, that seems glory enough for him until the next annual election. Be a politician every day in the year, not to the neglect of your business, but the best way to secure it. Remember there is more in politics than mere office holding—the policy of the government and prosperity of the nation depends upon it. Read, think, and above all things, act. Act in unison. Do as the schemers and manipulators do. Harmonize differences, unite for self-protection, attend the primary and every caucus, then the county and state conventions. You have the power, exercise it. Nominate good men, and then elect them. Break the slate now and then. You are antagonized by the sharpest and brainiest men in the land. They make politics a study, do nothing else; they can run caucuses, conventions and legislatures, and the people are like clay in their hands. They will tell you in a patronizing manner that the people are well enough in their way, but they don't really understand politics any more than they do finance and transportation, and you will have no trouble in finding agreeable, educated gentlemen in the large cities who are willing to take your proxies and attend to your political duties. Remember that you have here more important duties to discharge than ploughing, planting and reaping. Elect men to the legislature who will not be bribed by adverse interests, or cajoled by the blandishments of a state capital.

As we stand to-day in the greatest city of Nebraska and what is destined to be in wealth, education and refinement the largest city in the west, whose growth and wealth, like that of the state, seems to increase with a magic more wonderful than that of Aladdin's lamp. We dare not predict the possibilities of the future. If we are true to ourselves and just to all we will continue to be as we are now, the peer of any in the grand sisterhood of states.

Not only our great development in production and population, but the death roll of some of the early and prominent citizens is bearing testimony that the days of our infancy as a state has passed. Rogers, a distinguished citizen of Dodge county, Kaley, one of the ablest from the Republican Valley, Schick, an honored representative from Nemaha, another who held the highest position the people of this state could confer, Phineas W. Hitchcock, who had seen the common wealth from its infancy growing to manhood out stripping in population and wealth, many of the original thirteen, since last we met have lain down the burden of life.

We had given to the world during the last few weeks the most wonderful exhibition that ever illustrated its history. No people in ancient or modern times, no form of government furnishes a parallel. A president duly elected to execute the laws for 50,000,000 freemen is stricken down by a cowardly assassin. Save the murderous wretch scarce another from ocean to ocean, from the lakes to the gulf, who does not reprobate the crime. Scarce a knee that has not bowed and a heart that has not fervently gone forth in open or secret prayer for the dying president. Scarce an eye that has not during the touching and pathetic incident dropped the silent tear. Before the mighty calamity at the bedside of the patient sufferer party strife and personal hatred have been stilled and banished. No anxiety more earnest, no grief more sincere than spontaneously came from the democratic party, against which he had so long battled, and the generous sympathy like to a personal sorrow which came from every southern home and heart with whom he had contended on the field of battle, has accomplished more in reuniting the sections than all the reconstruction acts of Congress. Kings and monarchs of Europe by the side of their subjects and serfs, have uncovered and stood in spirit and sympathy around the couch. Another grand spectacle, a people administering their own government without a ruler, without a president. No power in the government can give an executive order, all the cabinet combined cannot, while the hand of the chief magistrate is powerless, even to sign his name to any decree, yet we can say as did Garfield on an equally solemn occasion, "God reigns and the government at Washington still lives."

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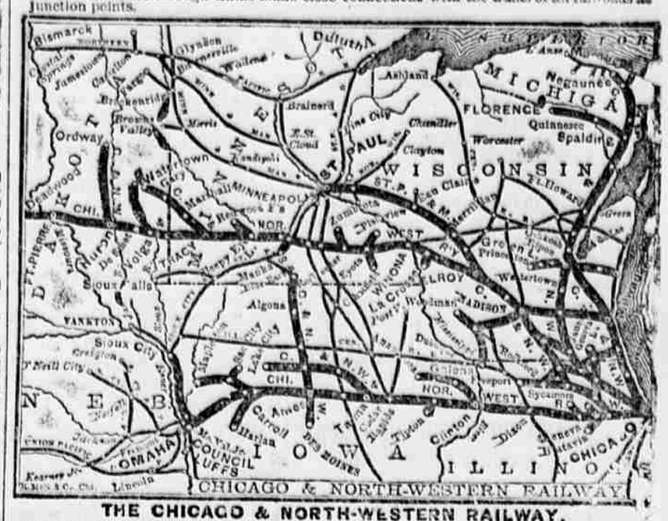

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