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R. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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5. Total number of copies not distributed	19,568	6. Total number of copies not distributed	19,568
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Notary Public.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of January, 1897.

Notary Public.

Speaking with reference to the Illinois

senatorship, Mr. Hill hoped it

would, but it didn't.

It looks very much as if South Caro-

lina will eventually have to dispense

with the dispensary law.

The bill to compel druggists to pay the

same license fee as liquor dealers is cal-

culated to drive the pill-mixers to drink.

When a bill has to be introduced into

the legislature "by request" it may be

put down at once as fore-ordained to die

a premature death.

Secretary of the Interior Francis now

reads his title clear, although he has

not recanted his belief in the principles

and policy of the sound money democ-

cracy.

Whenever a change in school text

books is contemplated the doors are

thrown open to all kinds of jobs en-

gineered by the exceedingly smooth

agents of the school book companies.

The question is, Will the council vote

the appropriation for increased pay for

the mayor's secretary for the month

of January under an ordinance clearly

passed in violation of the provisions of

the city charter?

Nebraska has a new set of secretaries

to a new set of railroad commissioners,

and the people will soon learn whether

or not the change has been merely a

formal transfer of salary claims from

one group of taxpayers to another.

As usual, the bills notifying the rail-

roads, express, telegraph, telephone and

insurance companies to appear in Lin-

coln in person or preferably by proxy

have been promptly introduced into both

houses of the Nebraska legislature.

An organization of the Danish citi-

zens of Omaha looking toward active

participation by them in the Trans-

mississippi Exposition and the presence

during the summer of 1898 of national

Danish societies is eminently desirable.

The Jones family must have an irre-

sistible pull down in Arkansas. One

Jones has just been re-elected to the

United States senate and another Jones

has just been installed as governor of

the state. And all the Joneses have not

yet been heard from.

Everybody in Florida sympathizes

actively with the men engaged in Cu-

bana buster. That may shed a

little light upon the decision of the

federal judge for the District of Flor-

ida holding substantially that filibus-

tering is a legitimate business.

A friendly competition between the

legislatures of the western states as to

which can do most for the improvement

of the public welfare and the restoration

of confidence in western resources and

investments will be welcomed by the

people without regard to state rivalry.

Assurances are given by the British

government that the most stringent

measures are being taken to repress

the terrible plague that is raging in

Rombay. It is greatly to be hoped

that the good effects of these efforts

will soon be apparent and the deadly

work of the awful visitation stopped

without delay.

On the principle that you never get

what you ask for, the demand of the

school board for a 15-mill levy may

be excusable. There is, however, such

a thing as asking for the impossible. A

15-mill levy added to the 40-mill levy

which the council is contemplating

would render the collection of taxes

well-nigh dangerous.

It is hoped that the evident dispo-

sition of some of the new councilmen

to deal justly and walk uprightly and

oppose past and present jobs is not

merely the clean sweeping of a new

broom. A few consistently honest men,

even acting in a hopeless minority, can

at least raise the tone of a body which

is sadly in need of a tonic.

One of the provisions of the new

charter should require the council to

publish every appropriation ordinance.

Publicity is the best safeguard against

jobbery and extravagance. So long as

the taxpayers are kept in the dark

concerning the amounts voted away

out of the treasury permanent retrench-

ment and economy are impossible.

ARE WE ON THE WAY TO PROSPERITY?

There are none so blind as those who will not see. Senator Teller, who is doubtless sincere in his advocacy of free silver coinage, is quoted as saying that the country is in a great deal worse condition today than it was several months ago. In proof of this assertion the senator stated that while on his way west he stopped over at Chicago and was informed that there are from 60,000 to 70,000 destitute persons being fed in that city at the public expense at the present time. He furthermore asserted on his own responsibility that there are more idle men in the country than there have been for many years and that the starting up of factories which has taken place since the election are those that were closed three days before the election, when men were told to come back if McKinley was elected and if not to stay away.

Such assertions coming from a man in as high a public position as Senator Teller challenge attention. Their natural tendency is to create distrust in the future prosperity of the country and to breed discontent among the masses. Like William Jennings Bryan, who recently pointed at the failure of a dozen western banks as proof that the election of McKinley was not the forerunner of prosperity, Senator Teller closes his eyes to what would inevitably have happened had McKinley been defeated. In common with all thoughtful men conversant with business conditions the Colorado senator would, upon reflection, be forced to admit that the assurance of a radical change in our money standard would have precipitated a financial panic more disastrous than any that this or any other country has ever seen. Instead of a dozen bank failures thousands of banks would have been forced to suspend, carrying in their wake complete paralysis of commerce and industry. Not only would the entire banking system of the country have collapsed, but the United States treasury would have been compelled to discontinue specie payments. How long it would have taken the country to recover from such a shock it is impossible even to surmise.

The 70,000 destitute people in Chicago afford no warrant for the inference that the country is in a great deal worse condition today than it was before the election, or that there are more idle men in the United States now than there have ever been. Chicago has a population of 1,500,000, and if 70,000 of its people are destitute the percentage is no larger than that of other great cities throughout the world. It shows simply that out of every 100 people in Chicago ninety-six are able to take care of themselves, while four are not.

As to the reopened factories, the truth is that fully 150,000 workmen and women are employed today who were not employed last winter. It is absolutely certain that these people would not have been employed had McKinley been defeated, and the ranks of the idle would have been reinforced by several hundred thousand mill and factory hands by reason of the inability of the owners to carry on their business in the face of a general withdrawal of banking accommodations. Worse than all, the instability of everything while the change in our money standard was impending would have isolated the country for the time being if not for long years from all international relations.

No rational person expected that boom times would be restored immediately upon the announcement of McKinley's election. A marked change for the better has taken place, however, since November which Senator Teller and his silver followers refuse to take note of. First and foremost, confidence in the nation's financial integrity has been restored. The gold in the treasury has been increasing in volume and bond issues are no longer contemplated. The invisible gold supply has become again visible and loanable money is abundant in the money centers. Even in Colorado the advent of prosperity is being heralded forth by the press. The Denver Republican, for example, in a recent issue reviewing the year's business and mining operations speaks with confidence of the revival of prosperity and predicts a restoration of the former good times at no distant day. Unfortunately there are people whose political prosperity depends upon calamity, and those can not be convinced of any improvement either present or prospective.

SPANISH CONCESSIONS.

It is to be hoped the report is well founded that on the recurrence of the king's "saint day" the Spanish government will give full pardon to all political prisoners in Cuban jails. Such an act of clemency would receive the hearty commendation of the civilized world and would serve to create a confidence not now generally felt in the reported intention of Spain to inaugurate a policy of reforms in her colonial possessions. It would carry some assurance that the Spanish government is not altogether insensible or indifferent to the sentiment of civilized mankind regarding its treatment of the Cuban people. Certainly it will not be to the disadvantage of that government in the public opinion of this country if it shall give freedom to the Americans imprisoned in Cuba.

As to the proposed reforms in Cuba and Porto Rico, it is questionable whether they will be put into effect to the extent said to be contemplated. Spain has before promised reforms and did not keep the promise, so that there is good ground for doubting her sincerity now. The machinery of government proposed for Cuba in 1895 creates a self-governing state, subject to imperial supervision over taxation and expenditure, but leaving to the qualified voters of the island practically complete control of all its internal affairs. It is not contemplated, however, to grant universal suffrage, but existing provisions regarding the qualifications of voters may be somewhat liberalized.

The inauguration of a policy of this kind before the insurrection broke out might have averted the conflict, but its promise now is not likely to have any influence upon the insurgents. They have absolutely no confidence in any

pledge given by the Spanish government and indeed they distrust all Spaniards. Besides, according to the repeated declarations of the insurgent leaders, they will accept nothing short of complete independence. Their determined purpose is to cast off the Spanish yoke and they will listen to no concessions or compromise. If this spirit dominates the rank and file, as doubtless it does, the end of the insurrection is probably remote, for the Spanish power in Cuba does not appear to be making any progress toward suppressing the revolt.

NO POOLING LEGISLATION.

It appears that the efforts of the railroads to secure pooling legislation by this congress have been unavailing, the house committee on commerce having abandoned expectation of passing the bill that has been pending before it. This measure provides for permitting competing lines of railroad to enter into pooling arrangements, subject to the supervision of the Interstate Commerce commission. It was carefully drawn with reference to guarding against unreasonable charges by the railroads and had the approval of the commission. Its advocates urged that it could not in operation work any disadvantage to shippers, while it would be of benefit to the carriers in preventing ruinous rate cutting.

There is so strong an opposition in congress, however, to such legislation that a prolonged fight against the bill, if it were brought up, was assured and this probably decided the committee not to report it, as is implied by the dispatches. This will be satisfactory to those business men—and they are numerous—who believe that it would be a mistake to depart from the anti-pooling provision of the interstate commerce law, which they regard as the most valuable feature of that act.

DISTURBANCE OF THE CURRENCY.

Those who are urging currency reform and proposing all sorts of plans to that end, say that there is distrust of the currency which must be removed before there can be a full restoration of financial confidence. Why should there be distrust? What is there about the currency at this time that makes it essentially different in character from what it was during the extended period of financial confidence that followed the resumption of specie payments? We have only one more form of currency than in 1879—the treasury notes issued under the act of 1890—and it is not apparent why these should create any distrust.

The currency reformer will explain that it is the United States legal tender notes—the greenbacks—which are the source of distrust. Yet for fourteen years after resumption, when the government was getting abundant revenue, this currency caused no such trouble. Senator Gorman said in a speech in the senate during the first session of the present congress that whenever the treasury has had a surplus of revenue it could exchange greenbacks and treasury notes for gold, that before revenues fell below expenditures the people were glad to get government paper for gold. The statistics of redemption of these notes show that they caused the treasury no embarrassment until 1893. According to the last report of United States Treasurer Morgan the total redemptions of legal tender notes from 1879 to 1892, inclusive, amounted to \$43,310,892, an annual average of a little more than \$3,000,000. Experience since the presidential election has shown that the people have no distrust of this currency, but on the contrary prefer it to metallic money. The gold reserve has been increased by many millions exchanged for paper currency. There is no menace from the legal tender notes at present or in prospect and consequently no reasonable ground of distrust. But the reformers say that trouble may be again experienced some time in the future. Probably if treasury deficits continue and an unsettling and disquieting currency agitation is kept up. But with the government provided with ample revenue and revolutionary currency schemes dropped the country could safely count upon a long period of financial confidence.

A leading New York banker recently said: "I am not in favor of any hasty change in our currency system. Our present financial system is an evolution and any change therefrom should be thoroughly considered." One of the ablest writers on financial subjects says: "Our currency, with all its faults, answers its purpose sufficiently well. It is, to be sure, a heterogeneous compound of several varieties, but they are all of equal value and of equal utility. Their reduction to a single uniform species would gratify the lover of order and symmetry, but it would not render them any more serviceable to the public." It may be admitted that the currency system is not perfect, but its condition is not such as to justify distrust, though the tendency of the persistent agitation for a radical change in the system is certainly well calculated to create such a feeling. There can be no doubt that the advocates of currency reform are doing more harm than good. Their assault on the legal tender notes is a mistake and therefore injurious. The wise course is to let the currency question rest until provision has been made to give the government an adequate income. One thing at a time and the most important thing is revenue.

Three separate charters have been framed for cities of the metropolitan class as substitutes for the present charter. One of these charters was prepared under direction of several members of the Douglas delegation. The second, known as the Populist charter, was prepared under direction of a number of heavy property owners. The third was gotten up by a council committee in conjunction with representatives of the Commercial club. Two of these charters have been introduced into the legislature and it is to be presumed that the third will soon be introduced. That all three of these charters will pass is not to be expected any more than three bodies might be

expected to occupy the same space at the same time. What will probably pass is the usual patch-quilt conglomeration with which Omaha has been afflicted periodically by successive legislatures. While the general features of these various charter bills have been outlined in the press none of them have been accessible in full so that their respective merits or defects might be rationally discussed, as all proposed legislation should be that is of such vital concern to citizens and taxpayers.

The striking feature of the campaign which the school board has instituted to force the council to comply with its extravagant demands is to be the personal appeal of the \$3,000-a-year superintendent for an allowance that will perpetuate the present system of reckless expenditure of school funds. Last year the work of pounding the tampion was delegated to a High school pupil who had well-developed oratorical powers. The next thing we will hear of will be a crusade by all the teachers, spurred on by threats of reduced salaries or an extended vacation.

Governor Drake of Iowa recommends in his message to the special session of the legislature that all state edifices hereafter constructed be made substantially fireproof. This advice is pertinent to all state legislative bodies. What houses the state builds as homes for dependent or delinquent public wards should be of first quality. The insane and blind and criminal are always helpless in case of fire, and loss of life by the burning of state institutions is almost inexcusable in these days of modern architecture and cheapened construction. The fire-traps must go.

The Omaha Mosher organ is again pushing the plan of protection for banks and bank depositors advocated by the financier of the late Capital National bank of Lincoln. As it was through the columns of that organ that the author promulgated his arguments in favor of his scheme, the appropriateness of that paper once more taking it up is self-evident.

Ohio's Arc Lights.

With Hanna in the senate, McKinley in the White House and John Sherman in the State department it cannot be said that the state of Ohio will not be illustriously represented in the next administration.

Where Arbitration Does Not Pay.

New York Sun.

Now, what a splendid guarantee of good faith and repentance it would be if England were to try to settle arbitration with the kingdom of Benin before proceeding to make the massacre of Benin a precedent for the conquest and annexation of that benighted but desirable land!

Cramp and the Cornstalks.

Shipbuilder Cramp has discovered that the cornstalk can be used as a padding for ships and armor. He wants the parts of the stalks which are of no use to the farmer, and estimates that he can get all such material that he can get from his factories at \$2 a ton. The price is based upon the assumption that the stalks can be cut for \$1 an acre, which is not probable.

The Protest Against Trusts.

The popular feeling against a cornucopia of trusts is not a mere prejudice