

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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THE DEMOCRATIC ATTITUDE.

It appears to be the determination of the democrats of the senate to oppose ratification of a canal treaty with Panama. It is announced that they propose to attack any effort to open negotiations with the new republic and to support the Spooner act, urging that the president should proceed to carry out the authority conferred by that act to negotiate for the construction of a canal on the Nicaragua route.

American public sentiment is very nearly unanimous in favor of the Panama route. Undoubtedly President Roosevelt will proceed, under the authority conferred by the constitution, to negotiate a canal treaty with Panama as soon as the government of the new republic is fully organized. It is understood to be the opinion of the administration, concurred in by the republicans of the senate, that the Spooner act does not interfere with the negotiation of a treaty with Panama, as the new republic inherits the rights and obligations of Columbia.

There are some democrats who show sanity in regard to this matter and it may be that these will exert a wholesome influence. The Brooklyn Eagle, one of the ablest democratic papers in the country, says: "The past should suffice for folly, but we fear that an appalling superfluity of democratic error is to be wantonly augmented. There is nothing more democratic, by the true definition of that word, than to plant and to maintain freedom and civilization in the isthmus of Panama and to secure those blessings there by utilizing that nexus between oceans for a waterway which will make an unbroken passage for commerce within and around the world. There is nothing more undemocratic, in reality, than opposition to what will bring such results to pass. There is nothing more depressing to those who would make organized democracy a factor for progress, for freedom, for commerce and for peace than to find the party of that name lined up against a duty so plain and an opportunity so grand. Progressive democrats would save perjured democracy from needless addition to its stupendous list of wanton errors and of melancholy recantations."

A BETTER FEELING.

The Bee thinks it can see in the sentiment of the state, as reflected by the state press, a decidedly better feeling for Omaha and Omaha enterprises than has existed for many years. The people of the state are more thoroughly convinced than ever before that Nebraska's progress and prosperity depends upon united action in behalf of every project that promises to build up our industries and attract new population. They are realizing also, as never before, that the welfare of every part of the state is more or less dependent upon the prosperity of every other part, and that one city or town cannot pull itself up by pulling down its neighbor.

These remarks are occasioned by the perceptible change in attitude toward the proposed Omaha grain market since its import and scope have been more fully explained. There was at first a disposition to doubt its feasibility and to question the possibility of successful results in which the grain growers throughout the state would profit as well as the grain buyers in the new market. The people outside of Omaha have now opened their eyes to the fact that a home market for their grain close at hand will be of inestimable advantage to them in the way of steady prices and creating an additional demand for their product by stimulating the erection of local flouring and cereal mills, starch factories, glucose works, etc., that will convert the products of Nebraska's soil into finished foodstuffs for home consumption. Omaha's public-spirited citizens, who are back of the new grain market project, are also alive to the necessity of the cordial co-operation of the people who have grain to sell and grain to ship within the territory radius from which this market will have to draw.

As the Fremont Tribune puts it, "as between Chicago and Omaha as an outlet for our grain, we are in favor of Omaha." This is the spirit we would have cultivated and expanded, and it applies not only to this particular enterprise but to all others that make for the upbuilding of Nebraska. The campaign for the development of Nebraska's resources is on and it behooves every person interested in the future of the state to take hold and push the good work along.

Congressman Crumpacker of Indiana is still pursuing his scheme for the enforcement of the constitutional penalty against the southern states which have abridged the right of the citizens to vote by reducing proportionally the representation in the national house or representation. There is no question but what this course was intended by men who formulated the amendment and by the

people who voted its ratification. What is lacking is the courage in congress to execute its provisions. Had congress acted promptly in this direction when the first southern state imposed discriminating electoral qualifications in order to disfranchise the blacks the other states would have been slow to have followed suit in the disfranchisement movement.

GORMAN IN THE LEAD.

There appears to be no doubt that Senator Gorman is at present in the lead among the possible democratic candidates for president next year. There is every reason to believe that he will have the practically unanimous support of the southern states in the national convention, for which he made a direct bid in the Maryland campaign by giving precedence to the race issue, the democratic victory in that state unquestionably adding to his prestige as a leader, at least in the estimation of the people of the south. There is also a considerable sentiment in the east favorable to Gorman. Assuming that Mr. Cleveland would under no circumstances consent to be the nominee of his party, the Philadelphia Ledger says that the democrats of the east would probably, almost certainly, take the Maryland leader as their next best choice. They are not troubling themselves about the race question, remarks that paper, but they believe that Mr. Gorman would receive material support from Wall street, the trust and corporation chiefs, to whose interests it is thought he would not be unfavorably disposed. "As a member of the federal senate," adds the Ledger, "Mr. Gorman has been a useful friend to the Sugar trust and Wall street, it is understood, holds him in high regard."

That he will be most willing to treat with these financial interests which are said to desire the nomination of a "conservative" democrat, that is, one who will not attempt the enforcement of the anti-trust law or any statute which interferes with the unrestricted operation of the combinations, is not to be doubted. The Maryland democratic leader has never shown the slightest hostility to the trusts and he would not decline any aid they might be disposed to give him in promoting his presidential ambition. Nor can it be doubted that the trusts would be quite secure should he realize his ambition. Mr. Gorman would be as thoroughly conservative as the most exacting combination could require. But Wall street regard is not so valuable politically as some may suppose and while it may have potency in the next democratic national convention it will have little with the voters of the country.

Senator Gorman is a shrewd and adroit politician and can be depended upon to skillfully lay his plans for capturing the nomination for the presidency next year. He is already well assured of having the south with him, but there are still obstacles in his way which he will not find it easy to surmount.

The republican national committee has been summoned to meet December 11 to make provision for holding the nominating convention that will make up the presidential ticket for 1904. The rule of the committee requires a six months' notice for the calling of a national convention, so that the convention date cannot be earlier than June 11. People interested may take notice of this in making their computations.

Our Columbian friends do not like the way Uncle Sam has acted toward the new Republic of Panama. One would hardly expect anything different in that quarter, however. The Columbians do not know whether to be more angry at the United States or at their former compatriots who have erected a new government in territory that previously belonged to them.

Having had it declared by the courts that the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners has no authority to enforce or to suspend the enforcement of the law relating to gambling, members of that body may expect to lose their popularity with the sporting fraternity.

South Omaha is getting ready to open up the public library which is to be installed in the new building donated by Mr. Carnegie, which is rapidly nearing completion. With a few more public institutions like this South Omaha should soon be ready to be annexed.

No Crowns for Uncle Joe. Detroit Free Press. Speaker Cannon has decided not to be a czar. This is undoubtedly the wisest course. Uncle Joe does not look as if he had much Romanoff blood in his veins.

Body Blow for Reuben. Washington Star. A number of statesmen will never get over being appalled by the fact that it takes more money to run the national government than it does to conduct the affairs of the home township.

Looking for an Opening. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. J. P. Morgan is reported deeply wounded by what has been said of him, and will retire from business January 1. After that, let us hope, he will open his heart and give us a true history of Wall street.

American Well-Wishers. Philadelphia Record. In no country outside of Germany itself are there more sincere hopes that the trouble in the Emperor William's throat is as innocuous as the surgeons announce than there are in the United States.

A Safe Guess. Chicago Record-Herald. There are all sorts of stories as to the amount of money that goes to the duke of Roxburgh with Miss May Golet, but, while most of these are unreliable, it is safe to assume that he will not have to work for his money.

Shortening Working Time. Detroit Free Press. The United States senate was in session fifteen minutes Monday; but after it settled down to work the senators believe that business can be greatly expedited and the session reduced to nine minutes on the

days when Senator Morgan is too hoarse to talk.

Smooth Sailing. Cincinnati Enquirer. The new Panama republic has a provisional government. Everything with "provisions" in it is easy down there. Food grows luxuriantly on trees, and in the tropical climate much meat is a detriment to health.

Perish the Thought. Chicago Chronicle. No wonder that Mr. Bryan announces a purpose to go to law in the matter of the Bennett legacy. The court has just entered an order giving the widow \$7,500 per annum for personal expense. Perhaps the judge is a gold bug, too.

Abuse of Franking Privilege. Philadelphia Record. The first known instance of a revival of the use of the frank for the personal benefit of a member, on a large scale, is that reported from the home of Congressman Robinson, in Indiana. The truck which he sent to Washington under his frank was packed with mail and cordially shook the hand of almost every representative who has hesitated to make the fullest use of the privilege. Until the critic of such things shall himself enjoy an opportunity to get services or articles from the government by virtue of an official place he will be unable to appreciate the temptation to revel in the right.

ARE MEN JUST AS FOOLISH? Often Do a Stunt Like the Women of New York. Denver Post. "Just like women" is the remark all over the land today concerning the disgraceful struggles of a mob of women to see Roxburgh's bride and her celebrated wedding costume. First blush, the description of clawing women, tussling with the police to get close to Miss Golet, seems hideous and shocking. But, really, there was nothing new in the episode; nor was it peculiar to New York or to America; nor was it entirely feminine. Men are just as foolish when their curiosity is frothing. The incident was simply an exhibition of curiosity, a common human trait that flares into a sort of madness at times, and is only restrained by that small percentage of civilized mankind which is known as the "blue" only the person who has developed an artificial contempt of curiosity is able to resist satisfying himself when he is interested in some object. And to develop absolute refusal to be curious requires a loss of natural qualities that renders the blasé person sometimes worthy of pity.

The frantic struggles of adult men to see presidential candidates is the same thing. But when the mob does the wildest stunts in its efforts to see some glittering political celebrity the great man is very indignant; the scene of disgraced curiosity is "unmanly and unbecoming," and "we protest ourselves on our democracy." The great man shakes hands with the mobs of curious people. It is all very fine. Miss Golet, the celebrated bride, was just as much an object of curiosity to women as a victorious prize fighter or a candidate for president is to men. The mob of women acting with exactly the same idiosyncrasy in trying to see her that men display in trying to shake hands with President Roosevelt or Jim Jeffries.

WALLS OF THE PROMOTERS. Wall Street Crafters Turn from Water to Political Hot Air. New York Tribune. There are signs that the small but determined body of people who think that a candidate whom the disgraced promoters in Wall street chose to blame for their misfortune must be defeated for renomination are already finding comfort in the recent election and are in full cry against the president. They have discovered that the defeat of a nonpartisan candidate for president is a victory which the president had obviously nothing to do to conclusive proof that the people are against him.

They are equally sure that Senator Arthur Pue Gorman's undeniably successful campaign in Maryland demonstrates a reaction against Roosevelt. No doubt the little falling off in Massachusetts in an off year proves the same thing. It is certain, moreover, that the overwhelming majority in Ohio proves Roosevelt's unpopularity with equal clearness and demonstrates that the country is clamoring for Hanna or McKinley for president. And so it goes. Whatever election favors the republican party demonstrates that it wants somebody else for its nominee. Whatever election indicates an adverse fluctuation in the republican vote shows precisely the same thing—that the republican party wants some other candidate than Roosevelt. Whatever election has nothing to do with the republican party, or was ostentatiously nonpartisan, with the republican machine in the background and few republican nominees on the ticket, proves in the same way that the republican party wants somebody else than Roosevelt for its candidate. It should be further proclaimed that whatever candidate the promoters of Wall street desire is necessarily and obviously the candidate for whom the republican party of the country is waiting; that the republican party throughout the United States will rush to the support of any candidate whom these promoters approve, and immediately manifest intense hostility to any candidate whom they disapprove.

In New York City, in spite of Mr. McClellan's victory, they gained several assemblies. Nor was that victory itself an indication of republican weakness. Mr. McClellan's majority is less than that of Mr. Cozer, or of Judge Van Wyck, both of whom lost the state. The republicans carefully refrained from trying to use the country's party advantage and the president held aloof. It is somewhat ridiculous to account for the result as if the party and the president had sought indorsement. But even if the city vote were to be taken as an index of party strength, republicans could be content, for an adverse majority here might be doubled and they could still carry the state on the issue of republicanism against democracy, for they have done it under far less favorable circumstances than when following a leader with the wonderful hold upon the popular heart possessed by Theodore Roosevelt.

Wall street promoters should adjust themselves to these facts and get over the mistaken idea that they represent either the wishes of conservative capital or the general tendencies of the people. They should learn to take care of itself and take care of capital, but it is not sitting up nights bemoaning the disappearance of the men who issued \$5 of securities for \$1 of value, and have at last discovered that the people decline to continue purchasing their issue at par.

Still less is the country looking for guidance to the men who made princely commissions, but carefully unloaded their own shares on the public to the last dollar. As they have lost nothing whatever save the public's confidence, their commissions might have had if the craze had continued, the country reserves such sympathy as it may have in the premises for the unhappy men who were less skillful in unloading and have suffered impoverishment or bankruptcy in consequence of seeing the enormously inflated securities shrink on their own heads.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

The latest version of the "Iowa idea" is about \$1,000 plurality. Chicago modestly declares without reservation that it is the greatest and best convention city on earth. No other city is "just as good."

Mayor Seth Low reports that his campaign expense was \$3,154.83. McClellan says he didn't spend a cent. Tammany is generous to his friends.

One of the editors of Life tried to break into the New York Board of Aldermen, but the voters failed to appreciate the honor of his candidacy and left him tied at the post.

Bourke Cockran, Charles A. Towne and ex-Governor Campbell of Ohio are mentioned as candidates to succeed George B. McClellan in congress. Croker's friends are said to have vetoed Cockran's ambition. But Croker is a good way off.

Republican senators "rubbied it in" when they put Senator Gorman on the committee to notify the president that the senate was ready for business. Arthur Pue took his medicine and cordially shook the hand of the man who shook the hand of Booker Washington.

The re-election of Mayor Schmitt of San Francisco, the candidate of union labor, was accomplished after a battle with both republican and democratic candidates. In Connecticut, at the opposite side of the political divide, labor mayors fared equally well. Mayor Charles of Ansonia is in again, and so is Mayor Mulvihill of Bridgeport.

The next governor of Ohio will be the first of that state clothed with the veto power. An amendment to the constitution conferring this power and extending it to single items in money bills was approved by the people of the state, and so, after 100 years of vetoless experience, Ohio is brought into the company of most of the other states of the union.

The total assessment of personal property in the state of Mississippi for the year 1903 is \$70,700,773, an increase of \$5,921,176 over last year. In the list, besides live stock, carriages, household furniture, etc., are 25,345 watches, 15,913 pianos and organs, 774 guns (over one to each person, which is exempt), and 7,706 pistols, bowie knives, dirks and sword canes. The county reports show the following exempt property: 12,433 horses, 16,631 mules, 252,732 cows, 47,781 sheep, 15,305 goats, 222,974 pigs and 256 asses. The number of polls assessed is 306,421, an increase of 4,665 over last year.

In his goodbye interview for the benefit of ungrateful countrymen Mr. Bryan threw a harpoon into the vitals of his old friend, Grover Cleveland. "Mr. Cleveland," he said, "has done more business on less capital than any man who has ever held so high an office as president of the United States." If his democracy were capitalized at his own estimate it would give us an excellent example of watered stock. It is a question whether watered stock or wind pudding is the greater evil of inflation. As democrats have little else to do they can get needed exercise in answering it.

So little did Martin W. Littleton think of his chances of election as president of the borough of Brooklyn that he actually returned a number of checks which were sent to him as contributions to his campaign fund by friends and admirers. After his nomination several of Mr. Littleton's friends sent him checks, ranging in amount from \$10 to \$100, to help him cover the expenses of his campaign. To each of these checks Mr. Littleton wrote a letter, thanking him for his interest, but explaining that he was not making any canvass, did not expect to be elected, and, therefore, had no need for the check. Speaking of Mr. Littleton's election, Harry Ralston, who is a democratic leader in Brooklyn, writes to Mr. Littleton that he had established a new record in politics. "Littleton is the only man in the history of American politics," said Ralston, "who was ever elected on a ticket which he openly opposed."

PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS.

Determined Efforts to Check the Greed of Land Grabbers. St. Paul Pioneer Press. If the proportion of fraudulent to legal entries in the public domain as a whole has been the same as in the small portion of the domain subject to investigation by Land Commissioner Richards, the total holdings of land acquired by perjury and trickery must be enormous. In the older states much of the land acquired in times past has passed out of the hands of the settlers and into those of bona fide land grabbers who could not be disturbed either legally or equitably. They are, in fact, the persons who have been most directly wronged. Had the spirit and purposes of the land laws been carried out they would have been able to acquire their holdings at the minimum price fixed by Uncle Sam, whereas they were compelled to pay the speculators' price. Furthermore, the development of the states in which the frauds were perpetrated has been and is being hindered by this method of deceiving the immigrant by looking for cheap land on which to settle.

The extent of this check to natural growth cannot be measured. But it is faintly indicated in the fact that in California, Oregon and Washington alone 900 entries made under the timber and stone act have been suspended as probably fraudulent. But the timber and stone act is only one of the laws made use of to get possession of the public domain for purposes of speculation. The desert land act, and even the homestead law, are greatly abused. Moreover, during the year Mr. Richards reports 155 unlawful inclosures, covering 2,965,250 acres, or twice the area of Delaware. But these inclosures are only a fraction of the number maintained without legal warrant.

It is encouraging to find such vigorous measures to protect the public domain. It is the first time in the history of the land office that a systematic and sincere attempt has been made to enforce the land laws in their spirit, to punish those who have violated them and to deprive the settler and the planter. It has long been a matter of common knowledge in every state where there have been lands

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open to entry that scores and hundreds, possibly the major part, of the entries were made by persons who did not want the lands for themselves and did not even comply, except in the most perfunctory way, with the requirements of the law. In many of the local land offices which agricultural land has been filed on by hundreds whose only residence was that of one night twice a year in a shack thrown up for the purpose and whose only improvements were a few seeds dropped into the ground. The less scrupulous have not even complied with the technical requirements. The timber and stone act and the desert land act have been even more subject to abuse. But until recently the land office has seemed to connive at it, if it has not deliberately encouraged, these violations. There have been indications of collusion in many of the local land offices which may or may not have been known by the higher officials. But at last some of the damage is likely to be repaired and this combination of perjury and thievery punished and perhaps stopped entirely. It is high time! The public domain is many of the local land offices which may or may not have been known by the higher officials. But at last some of the damage is likely to be repaired and this combination of perjury and thievery punished and perhaps stopped entirely.

FACING THE FIGURES.

The Political Situation as it Appears for 1904. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. How did the forty-five state vote at their latest election? To answer this question is to deal with accomplished facts. These figures are permanently on record, whatever the future developments may be. By the apportionment of representatives made by congress under the census of 1900 the total electoral vote in 1904 will be 476. The number necessary to a choice is 239, or fifteen more than in the previous decade. In the latest elections, including those of the present month, the following states were carried by the republicans: California, 10; Colorado, 5; Connecticut, 7; Delaware, 3; Idaho, 3; Illinois, 27; Indiana, 15; Iowa, 13; Kansas, 10; Maine, 6; Massachusetts, 16; Michigan, 11; Minnesota, 11; Montana, 3; Nebraska, 11; New Hampshire, 4; New Jersey, 12; New York, 33; North Dakota, 4; Ohio, 23; Oregon, 4; Pennsylvania, 21; South Dakota, 4; Utah, 3; Vermont, 4; Washington, 5; West Virginia, 7; Wisconsin, 13; Wyoming, 3. Total electoral votes in republican states, 238. At the latest elections, the following states went democratic: Alabama, 11; Arkansas, 9; Florida, 5; Georgia, 13; Kentucky, 12; Louisiana, 9; Maryland, 8; Mississippi, 10; Missouri, 18; Nevada, 3; North Carolina, 12; Rhode Island, 4; South Carolina, 9; Tennessee, 12;

Texas, 15; Virginia, 12. Total electoral votes in democratic states, 195. Republican majority of electoral votes, gauged by the latest elections, 144. To carry the presidential contest next year the democrats must reverse the figures of the latest state elections to the extent of seventy-three electoral votes. Of course, this gain is admitted to be hopeless without New York's thirty-nine as a start. Even with New York, thirty-four more electoral votes would be necessary to win by a majority of one in the electoral college. New York and New Jersey transferred to the democratic column would still leave that party twenty-two short of an electoral majority. A combination calculated to win those two states would make a break elsewhere in the democratic line. It is quite improbable, for example, that Mr. Cleveland would carry Missouri. He would certainly fail in Nevada and Rhode Island, and be unpalatable to the strong Bryan element in Kentucky. Nothing short of a powerful upheaval, no element of which is now in sight, can prevent the election of a republican president and of another republican congress next year, taking the figures of the latest state elections as the basis of the estimate, which is the best available test.

Twenty-nine of the forty-five states were carried by the republicans at the latest elections. Of the sixteen states carried by democrats, only two, Nevada and Rhode Island, are northern states. In Rhode Island the democrats elected only the governor. The rest of the state officers and the legislature are republican. Nevada was republican until the silver question became prominent. Never before were the northern states as solidly republican as they are now by the figures of their latest elections. This is the historical answer to the solid south, and will unquestionably continue as long as that threat is maintained. Probably, as a forlorn hope, and their plight amounts to that, the effort of the democrats will be to carry Illinois, along with New York and New Jersey, not because Illinois is promising ground, but because its electoral vote is essential to a fighting chance. The republicans of Illinois have nothing to fear except from local dissensions. Folly of that kind would be a blow at the republican party nationally.

Outwitted and Outpaced.

Philadelphia Press. The war in which the administration provided for a prompt inquiry by the house of representatives into all the facts connected with the partial recognition of the new Republic of Panama startled the democrats. They were going to demand the information and make an attack on the president, when to their astonishment a republican offered such a resolution, and it was unanimously adopted. The democrats live and learn, but they do not know how to apply their newly-acquired knowledge.

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