

The Advocate

AND TOPEKA TRIBUNE.

OFFICIAL STATE PAPER.

N. R. P. A.

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ONE good feature of the dirty campaign now on in Kansas City, Missouri, is that it keeps the papers of that town from lying so much about Kansas and the Populists in general.

COXEY'S "peace" army was not very large when it started from Massillon, but it has plenty of space in which to grow. "Gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace."

A YOUNG and energetic newspaper man would invest some money to start a Populist paper provided the people of some good Kansas town will give him the proper encouragement. Address this office.

THE Coming Nation suggests the only single plank platform that is both sensible and comprehensive. It is a demand for the initiative and referendum. Give the masses of the people this, and thereby withdraw the legislative power from Wall street and from the corporations, and other questions will soon be disposed of. We can take passage on that plank without any serious misgivings.

AFTER the publication of the address of the National Committee, issued from St. Louis, we discovered a fatal error in it. Where the address spoke of paper money "redeemable in debts and taxes," a change was made by somebody, making it read, "redeemable in metal." We have endeavored to learn who was responsible for this change, but as yet have not succeeded. Some of our reform papers had the correct reading. The ADVOCATE was among those that were bit by a spurious copy. We have said nothing about it before because we desired first if possible to learn who made the change. It must have been wilfully done by somebody, and who ever he is, he ought to be hunted out if possible.

WHY THIS AGITATION?

A great deal is being said just now about the proposed march of Coxe's army, as it is called, to Washington. The great daily papers have ridiculed the movement and governors of states have given vague hints of what might be done in case such a demonstration should be seriously undertaken. The governor of Pennsylvania is reported as having said that the army could not pass through that state, and now comes another discouraging announcement from Washington—that public gatherings are not permitted upon the steps of the capitol or in the capitol grounds without permission of congress; and that this army of the unemployed would not be accorded that glorious privilege. The thought of denying representatives of banks, corporations and trusts the privilege of assembling in Washington and making known their wants has never occurred to the "servants of the people" assembled at the national capital, nor has the press ever become very much excited over these things; but the idea that workingmen, and they out of employment, too, should think of asking a hearing of congress seems utterly preposterous. What right have they to go to Washington?

All reports agree that the men are unarmed and that they are peaceable in their intentions. They claim that they simply desire an opportunity to lay their claims before the national congress and make a demonstration of such magnitude as to impress that body with the importance of giving those claims reasonable consideration. We are not prepared to say what the prospect may be of making such a demonstration successful, but we will make this suggestion: If these men undertake to go to Washington unarmed, and for the purpose which they have indicated, it may be well for governors of states and for government officials to let them go, and to encourage them to keep good natured. If they meet with unreasonable opposition while unarmed, they may take it into their heads to arm, and that would seriously complicate the situation.

WHY THIS MISREPRESENTATION?

In the treatment of differences of opinion in our own judgment it is as well to be fair as to be unfair, and it occurs to us that the Ottawa Journal in its issue of March 22 goes a long distance out of its way to criticize opinions of the ADVOCATE which the ADVOCATE never expressed. It says of certain sentiments that they are "more worthy a place in the Topeka Capital than in the columns of the ADVOCATE," and those sentiments were never expressed by the ADVOCATE. We have had many controversies with the Topeka Capital, and it has on many occasions misrepresented our ideas; but it has never yet, to our knowledge, in quoting anything we have said divided a sentence in the middle in order to give it a different meaning from that which we intended; and that is precisely what the Journal does in its pretended criticism.

It further labors hard to convey

the impression that we have cast unworthy reflections upon the Dunsmore house. We do not believe any reader so understood us who desired to understand what we really had to say. We yield to no one in loyalty to the Dunsmore house. We encouraged its organization and have always defended its action; and no paper in the state has published one half the matter designed to show the right and the wrong side of the legislative controversy that the ADVOCATE has done.

When we spoke of another legislature like the last one, we meant a legislature that is not controlled by Populists, and we think our readers so understood us, and will continue to so understand us notwithstanding the efforts of the Journal to misinterpret our language. If the Capital can excel the Journal in misrepresentation it's a good one. It is not worth the time and space to enter into any controversy with a journal which shows itself so incompetent to correctly state the views of a contemporary. The frequent changes of the Journal upon the subject of fusion cause it to be classed among the "very unreliable." Less than two years ago it took the position the ADVOCATE now occupies and always has occupied. What influence has led to the change?

POSTOFFICE CLERKS.

Among the measures pending before congress is one relating to the classification, duties and pay of postoffice clerks. In the railway postal service and in the delivery service there is now such a classification, regulation of salary and of the hours of labor; and it is no more than just that such regulation should extend to the clerks whose duties are confined to the routine work inside the office. There is probably no material objection to the bill now pending (H. R. 56) and it only needs to be brought before congress and the justice of its provisions be properly presented in order to be promptly adopted. It has the indorsement of the postal authorities, and we believe has the approval of the postal clerks themselves who are the parties most interested. The public is chiefly interested in efficiency of service; and this can only be secured by the employment of competent people to do the work. The best guarantee of efficiency in this, as in any other branch of the public service, is in doing full justice to every employe, thereby insuring a more than selfish interest in the work to be performed. We trust that this measure may not be lost sight of in the partisan shuffle for political buncomb for the coming campaigns.

STRANGE NOTIONS OF ABUSE.

The Topeka Hurrykain has succumbed to the inevitable from a lack of patronage at the hands of the administration. It imitated the ADVOCATE by filling its columns with abuse of the Capital, but as it did not have the state printing it gave up the ghost.—Capital, March 24.

The Capital has strange notions of what constitutes abuse. The ADVOCATE has exploded a great many of

the false theories and doctrines of the Capital, exposed its unblushing falsehoods, and presented arguments that it could not answer. If this is abuse we plead guilty to the charge. We were able to do these things, too, while the Capital was receiving the fees for the state printing, just as effectually as now. The Capital is especially sore just now in consequence of the recent drubbing it has received on the over-production theory, and its hypocritical pretense that the tariff affords protection to the American workingman against the "miserable pauper labor of Europe." We sympathize with it in its pitifully defenseless position, but we cannot permit our sympathies to prevent the publication of the truth.

It will be a sad sight to see Congressmen Broderick, Funston and Curtis trying to be re-elected on an anti-silver platform after voting with the Populists on the silver question.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

United States Senator A. H. Colquitt died in Washington on Monday. He was a Georgian by birth, and has represented that state in the senate since 1883.

Governor Matthews, of Indiana, another pious statesman, declares that he will call out the militia if necessary, to prevent any of the Coxe army from marching in that state.

Louis Kosuth, the eminent Hungarian patriot, died at Turin, March 23, aged 92 years. He had for many years maintained a high position in the estimation of his countrymen.

The People's party of Pennsylvania, will hold a state convention at Harrisburg, May 1, to nominate a state ticket. The committee's call reads very much like a Kansas calamity document.

Very severe cold weather is reported from the middle western states, and as far south as Tennessee the beginning of this week. In many parts of the Ohio Valley the fruit is frozen and the wheat injured.

The silver convention at Des Moines last week was very much like the ordinary silver meetings, the principle features being the Kansas contingent and Ignatius Donnelly. Several southern states were represented.

In response to an inquiry from Superintendent Snider, President Sweetster of the Boylston Insurance company, Boston, writes: "We have to confirm the report that this company has reinsured its outstanding risks and retired from business. The German American Insurance company, of New York, assumed all liability under our policies from the 16th inst."

About twenty-five of the leading New York bankers met a few days ago and adopted the following: "Resolved, that, in the opinion of the representatives of the financial institutions of New York who subscribed to the \$50,000,000 5 per cent loan and made it a success, the coinage of the silver seigniorage would endanger the financial stability of the government and would inflict upon a suffering people pernicious and unnecessary legislation which would be far-reaching in its disastrous consequence." Of course this was sent direct to the president, and of course the bankers confidently believed that it would have more weight than a petition from a thousand times as many working people.

Dutton House, Topeka, Kas., \$1.25-\$1.50 per day