

# The Advocate

AND TOPEKA TRIBUNE.

OFFICIAL STATE PAPER.

N. R. P. A.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1894.



KEEP off the grass.

THE war cry of the stand-up crowd this year is, "Keep off the grass."

THERE is no use condemning our national legislature until we settle the question as to whether it is made up of criminals or imbeciles.

CONGRESS goes right on discussing such stupendous question as *ad valorem* duty on boracic acid, Cleveland and Carlisle go fishing, while business languishes and workingmen's families go hungry. And there are people who innocently ask why in the world these Coxeyites want to go to Washington.

POLITICIANS and the great dailies are greatly exercised just now in consequence of the many indications of revolution apparent upon every hand. They have been warned that it was coming. In all ages of the world like causes produce like effects. Oppression breeds discontent and discontent leads to revolution as the only highway to liberty. Those who uphold the causes should not shrink from the consequences.

REPUBLICAN editors are very much exercised because the governor did not call out the militia at the behest of Missouri Pacific railroad attorneys to help them capture the commonwealth army. The governor remembers that Geo. T. Anthony called out the militia once by request of Santa Fe railroad officials and succeeded in shooting an inoffensive preacher; and he, like many other good citizens, is not precisely certain that a state executive is subject to the orders of railroad officials. Republican precedents would seem to indicate that he is, but some doubts have been expressed upon the subject, and the governor don't propose to act hastily in such cases. Keep as cool as you can, gentlemen; this is not your inning.

#### THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGN.

The Kansas Equal Suffrage association has just commenced an aggressive campaign in behalf of the constitutional amendment that is to be voted upon at the coming election. Meetings have already been held at Kansas City, Leavenworth, Lawrence, Topeka, Valley Falls, Atchison, Hiawatha, Burlingame, Osage City and Cottonwood Falls, and a large number of meetings are advertised in other parts of the state. In these meetings the Kansas women are desperately in earnest in this campaign. They are striking for a right which, denied to man, would unhesitatingly be declared to be tyranny.

In these meetings which are being held prior to the assembling of the party conventions, the chief fight is for recognition in the party platforms. These women are such impractical politicians that they seem actually to believe that party platforms should enunciate principles on the sole ground that they are right, and should not refrain from their enunciation on the ground of expediency. They seem further to believe that party policies should be so far governed by the platform declarations upon which parties are elevated to power as to render the supplemental statement, "and we mean what we say," entirely unnecessary. They further declare that the masses of the people agree with them in these strange doctrines, and that only the politicians and office-seekers in either of the leading parties of the state are manifesting any uneasiness in view of a possible platform declaration in favor of equal suffrage. Some of these women in both of the leading parties intimate that the incorporation in the platforms, or its omission therefrom, of a declaration in favor of the amendment will be received by them as an indication whether the people or the politicians and office-seekers control the conventions, and they say they shall govern themselves accordingly. Very strange politicians, these women. They do not seem to have any regard for "expediency" whatever. The question of right seems to be all they think of. They lack experience in real politics, you see, and they are so impractical. If they should be given the ballot it will be just like them to carry these strange doctrines into practice, and who can tell what the effect might be upon the "dear party" and upon the man who is dodging around through the underbrush to escape from the office that is in pursuit of him?

These women intimate further that the great moral problems that are demanding the recognition of political parties must not be set aside much longer on the ground of expediency. They have little faith in expediency and seem to think that a political party that builds upon it rests upon a very unstable foundation. They say that a party in order to endure must draw to its support the better rather than the baser elements of society, and this can only be done by building upon the eternal principles of right and justice. There are even

some men foolish enough to agree with these impractical women upon this subject, and it is hard to tell just what will come of these strange doctrines. We present them for the consideration of our readers. Somehow we are unable just now to discover the weak points in their novel theories, but they are so inexperienced and impractical that we turn them over without further ceremony to the experienced statesmen of the land.

#### THE POLICEMAN'S SPECIAL MARK OF MERIT.

Every day affords new proof that stupidity and brutality are the chief recommendations of what are called "the good policeman." There is not a city in the land where a police force exists that does not furnish evidence of this fact. These qualities in the police of Washington city were specially manifest in the recent assault upon Coxey and his followers. That the commonwealers were guilty of nothing appeared at the trial. True they were convicted of "walking upon the grass." This conviction, so far as Coxey was concerned, was obtained on the perjured testimony of the blue-coated ruffians who pose as peace officers, as convictions are obtained every day in the police courts of the land; and in the case of Browne, it was shown that he was driven upon the grass to escape the clubs of these brutes. After all the bluster and blow, the riot drill for months of the Washington contingent of the national guard and of the police; and the expressed determination to find the commonwealth army guilty of some terrible offense against the laws and the peace of society, the only charge that could be found against these men by a too-willing gang of legalized thugs was wearing a badge and getting upon the grass. Of course, Washington society and this great government of the United States must be protected from such dangers as this. The demo-republican campaign cry of 1894 should be changed from "redeem Kansas" to "keep off the grass."

#### A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME, ETC.

The Kansas City Journal, which has searched its vocabulary for years for terms mean enough with which to characterize the People's party, is gradually adopting the principles of the party and putting them forth as its own. Only a short time ago it championed practically the principle involved in the financial plank of the Omaha platform although, of course, it failed to give the proper credit. Now, in the issue of May 11, we find the following:

We alluded the other day to the new idea or system of the "initiative and referendum." Here is a more substantial reform in full view than has been proposed since the abolition of slavery, and it is within the control of organized labor to bring it about. Its freedom from the demagogue is one of the reasons for its being so little known. Make it a part of our state constitutions, which can be done by votes, and in ten years every practical reform will be practicable, and the "class" distinction disappear from American politics, where it is as yet an unnatural forger. This will kill demagoguery.

Of course, the Journal would not

admit that this is Populist doctrine, and we shall not insist upon it. A rose by any other name is just as sweet, and if the Journal will give *this measure* its support, its readers will soon be looking around for a party that proposes to carry it into effect, and that will not be the republican party.

#### WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US CONTINUE TO PROSPER?

Republicans now claim that under their administration and under the laws enacted by republicans this country enjoyed a degree of prosperity up to the beginning of the Cleveland administration such as it never enjoyed before. The Concordia Blade very pertinently inquires, if this be true, why republican congressmen joined with the wicked democrats to interrupt that prosperity by the repeal of one of their wise and beneficent statutes? Why didn't they let the country continue to prosper as it had never before done in its history? The point seems to be well taken.

The gold reserve is again reduced below the hundred million dollar mark in consequence of the "foreign demand," and we may look for another issue of bonds any day. While it has been the policy of the American people to pay the bonds issued during the war to the uttermost farthing notwithstanding all the frauds connected with them, bonds issued now should be repudiated without ceremony. There is no call for them, no law for them, and nobody to profit from them but a set of pirates who live and grow fat upon legalized plunder.

Nor an American-born citizen took part with the rioters in Cleveland. It was the riff-raff of the foreign element which has created all the trouble in that city during the last few days.—Kansas City Gazette, May 6.

How came this "riff-raff of foreign element" in the city of Cleveland, and what was it doing there before the riot? Doesn't our system of protection to American labor protect?

"I regard the credit of the United States government as safe in the hands of Grover Cleveland and John G. Carlisle as if it were in the hands of a republican." —John Sherman.

"Say what you will, I believe the Ford brothers are just as reputable, law-abiding citizens as I am." —Jesse James.

—The Corner Stone.

In the clash of state boards and the whirl of offices, what has become of the "initiative and referendum scheme?" —Emporia Gazette.

Don't worry about it; you'll hear from it in due time. What have you to say about it?

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