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MISSOURI NEWSPAPERDOM

Grover Cleveland will visit the hunting grounds in Colorado in October, and under the guidance of old hunters will chase the ferocious grizzly to his lair and beard the mountain lion in his den, a la "Teddy the Terror."

Glasgow Missourian: The presence in the vicinity of New Franklin of what is said to be a malignant form of smallpox has prompted the county board of health to take such precautions as will prevent its spread. The action of the board is both wise and timely.

Carrollton Democrat: The post-office department has ruled that letters that are to be delivered by the rural delivery carriers require a two cent stamp the same as if the letter went to another postoffice. Heretofore drop letters containing a one cent stamp have been sent out over the routes, but in the future, Mr. Goodson says, he will be compelled to hold them for postage. Patrons of the office who desire to write to people living on the rural routes will save annoyance if they will bear this in mind.

Carrollton Democrat: The two papers at Norborne—the Leader and Jeffersonian—have been consolidated, Geo. H. Evans, of the Jeffersonian retiring, and Geo. H. Thomas assuming control of the consolidated plants. The name of the new paper will be the Leader-Jeffersonian. In politics the paper announces that it will be absolutely independent. Norborne is amply able to support one newspaper handsomely, but not two, and we trust the new paper will receive the support of the Norborne people and prosper.

Knob Noster Gem: It's the local paper that knows you; speaks for you; rejoices with you and mourns when you die. City papers will roast you if you come to the city with hayseed in your whiskers; exploit your bad deeds, if you happen to be bad; but they'll never know you otherwise unless you're a man or woman bigger than the temple, commit murder or run off with somebody else's husband or wife. The local paper covers up your little "oddities," condones your faults and speaks good words for you year after year, and goes right on unappreciated, as usual.

California Dispatch: The State Tribune of last week in referring to the escape of Bossie Francis, the negro who assaulted and murdered a white lady in Johnson county, says they are glad he escaped as it saved the state from a stain on her fair name. While we are not in favor of lynch law, yet there is an unwritten law that exists in cases of this kind. The extreme limit of the law would be a term of years in the penitentiary or possibly hanging, either of which is too good for the brute who is too low to fall into hell. In regard to the stain on the state, it would easily outlive the stain, while womankind could not.

THE MASK OF POLITENESS.

Walter Williams in Columbia Herald. The social life promotes amiability. Politeness is put on as a mask. Where it comes from the heart and is genuine courtesy politeness is honorable in all. But the sham which passes for politeness, which is put on or off with one's best suit, which is worn in the parlor and laid aside in the living-room, is entirely different. This corresponds to the real article as a painted rose-bush does to the flower blooming in the gardens, fair to look upon and fragrant. Amiability of this imitation variety brings laxity of morals, complaisance at infractions of ethics, disregard of the plain teachings of conscience lest there be ruffling of the

Lee's Summit Journal: It is useless for the rural papers each week to burden their columns with advice to factions of democracy to get together. The Journal's article of week before last on "The Only Way" will be the last effort we make to preach right to these belligerents. Give the people a direct primary vote and the troubles of democracy in Jackson county will end.

The Columbia Herald is very much in favor of country life and editorially says: "The census shows the unexpected fact that the increase in the urban population has not been as large in the ten years from 1890 to 1900 as in the previous decade. Can it be that the drift of population is away from the cities? We hope so. The congested life of the cities does not tend to promote the welfare of the republic. The prosperity of the country rests at last upon the farm lands of the rural districts. It would be a happy, hopeful change to find the population of the United States drifting back to the farms and small villages. No one should live in a big city when he can possibly avoid it. It is like living in a stuffy postoffice box for most people."

Congressman Bartholdt, of St. Louis, has given notice of his intention to go into the courts to contest the legality of the recent act of the Missouri legislature in apportioning the state into congressional districts. Mr. Bartholdt charges that the re-districting was a rank gerrymander, and as such has operated to change the political status in St. Louis by reducing the number of republican representatives from three to one. The Missouri case will furnish the basis for similar actions in other states, where like conditions prevail, particularly in Pennsylvania and Texas, where the re-districting was on very much the same plan as in Missouri. The matter will eventually go to the supreme court for settlement.—Glasgow Missourian.

LaBelle Star: Considerable stir has been created among several teachers in this county because twenty-seven of those who took the examination failed to get certificates. This same complaint comes from nearly every county in the state. It seems to be the aim of the state superintendent of schools to place the schools of the state upon a higher plane, and the board of examiners had no jurisdiction in the matter, only to carry out instructions from headquarters. The board in this county is composed of honorable gentlemen who did the very best they could for the teachers without violating the instructions laid down for them to follow. Naturally there are some disappointed teachers in Lewis county, but we trust that those who failed this year will prepare themselves for future examinations and by so doing not only benefit themselves but the school that they may be secured to teach. Too much care cannot be exercised in school work.

social waters. We wink at wickedness because we are too polite to condemn it. We smile at fragrant sin lest we hurt somebody's feelings by rebuking it. We let our neighbor severely alone because we are too amiable to stir ourselves to help him. Good causes languish for assistance because we are so well-content and amiable. Let the world alone. It is comfortable enough for us. Why should we worry and lose patience.

WHEAT! WHEAT!! WHEAT!!!

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BIASED NEWSPAPER'S INCONSISTENCY.

From Bryan's Commoner.

In its issue of September 3, the Kansas City Star took Mr. Bryan to task because of his labor day address. The Star insisted that Mr. Bryan was "looking on the dark side." Among other things that newspaper said:

"Look at the wealth of this country—is the division just?" was one of Mr. Bryan's interrogations. No, it is not just, nor can the distribution of wealth be absolutely just under any form of government and with any race of people. Even the socialistic doctrine, which aims at ideal co-operation, distribution and compensation, cannot possibly insure absolute equity, for some deserve more than others—earn more than others. Such a question answers itself, but the effect of asking it of the poorer class is to engender a feeling among that class against the richer—and that is not in accordance with the democratic spirit of this country, which gives every man a right to acquire and possess."

To say that absolute perfection can not be attained in the distribution of wealth is no defense of a bad law or a bad system. It should be the aim of every good citizen to aid in making the government as nearly perfect as possible. Each person should receive from society in proportion as he contributes to society—this is the ideal condition and should be approached as nearly as human ingenuity can devise. But the purpose of this editorial is not to defend Mr. Bryan but to call attention to the Star's inconsistency.

In its issue of Wednesday, September 4, the Star made admirable answer to itself. Under the headline "Wounds of a Friend," the Star had this to say:

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend," said Solomon, the wise man of old. Under this head may be classed the utterances of Theodore Roosevelt in his address at Minneapolis on labor day. Standing out strong and clear among all of the declarations which have been made on the subject of trusts are the following sentiments by the vice president: "We shall find it necessary in the future to shackle cunning, as in the past we have shackled force." * * * "The vast individual and corporate fortunes, the vast combinations of capital which have marked the development of our industrial system create new conditions and necessitate a change from the old attitude of the state and the nation toward property."

"These are direct and pointed sentiments inspired by conditions to which no thoughtful and sober minded man can be blind. They are not uttered in any spirit of intemperate agitation or with any purpose to excite false alarm for political purposes. They come from an influential member of the party which capital in modern years has regarded as its chosen champion. They do not proceed from a person who has excited the suspicion of the conservative element by the radical character of his opinions."

"In admonishing the large capitalists of their duty Mr. Roosevelt is speaking to persons with whom he has been intimately associated. He is prominently identified with the social and political life of the richest community in America. He is a New Yorker by heredity. He is known and esteemed by the so-called money kings. He could have no possible motive in wishing to overthrow a fabric which would bring destruction to those who are of the same political household of faith with himself."

"Mr. Roosevelt speaks as a friend to the rich men who are rapidly gaining control of the industries and the commerce of the nation. Will it not be infinitely wiser for them to hear him and heed him and follow his counsel than to persist in their scheme of self-aggrandizement at the certain risk of inviting a violent and implacable conflict with avowed enemies, who have none of the regard for the rights of capital which Mr. Roosevelt has always shown?"

Why does the Star publish editorials like this which have the effect "to engender a feeling among that class (the workingmen) against the richer?"

If it is wrong for a man who has "excited the suspicion of the conservative element by the radical character of his opinions" to utter the sentiments which Mr. Bryan did at Kansas City, is it not all the more wrong for a "thoughtful and sober minded man" like Mr. Roosevelt to give expression to similar sentiments?

Mr. Roosevelt said that "we shall find it necessary in the future to shackle cunning as in the past we have shackled force." He even went so far as to intimate that it would be necessary to make "a change from the old attitude of the state and the nation toward property;" the very thing which above all others the republican party has insisted is sacred.

When Mr. Bryan said things of this character the Kansas City Star said it was "not in accordance with the democratic spirit of this country which gives every man a right to acquire and possess." But when Mr. Roosevelt said these things this same newspaper cordially commended the speaker and warned "the rich men who are rapidly gaining control of the industries and commerce of the nation" that they will do well to hear and heed and follow the counsel of Theodore Roosevelt.

This same newspaper warns the trust magnates that they will make a mistake if they persist in their "scheme of self-aggrandizement," and that persistence in that direction will be "at the risk of inviting a violent and implacable conflict."

It will be observed that the Star points out that the opinions expressed by Mr. Roosevelt "do not proceed from a person who has caused the suspicion of the conservative element by the radical character of his opinions," and then in the same issue in which the Star commends Mr. Roosevelt's protest against the trusts it in another editorial, says:

William Jennings Bryan, with all his professed hostility for combinations against trade, has never said anything in relation to trusts so emphatic and unequivocal as the utterances of Vice President Roosevelt at Minneapolis. To the notable political epigrams of the day must be added the declaration of Mr. Roosevelt that "we shall find it necessary in the future to shackle force." The whole range of modern democratic literature might be searched in vain for a pronouncement more courageous than that on the tyrannical centralization of capital."

So according to the Star's own statement there is more of the "radical character" about Mr. Roosevelt's opinion than attached to the opinion of Mr. Bryan.

But the question is—of what moment is it who gave utterance to protests against these "schemes of self-aggrandizement?" Of what importance is it whether the protests were uttered by a man like Mr. Bryan, who the Star says has "excited the suspicion of the conservative element by the radical character of his opinions," or from Theodore Roosevelt, whom this republican organ is pleased to consider "a thoughtful and sober minded man?" Is not the question—"Is it the truth?"—the all important one in the contemplation of such a protest?

If conditions warrant such a protest, if the protest is based on justice and truth, is the fact in any wise altered whether the protest is made by Mr. Bryan or by Mr. Roosevelt?

Why is it that, when a democrat enters protest against "self-aggrandizement," this Kansas City paper finds it necessary to argue that such a protest is "not in accordance with the democratic spirit of this country which gives every man a right to acquire and possess;" while when a similar protest is made by a republican this same Kansas City paper on the very following day refers to the latter protest as "direct and pointed sentiments inspired by conditions to which no thoughtful and sober minded man can be blind?"

If every man has a right to "acquire and possess" regardless of the rights of others, as the Star intimated in its criticism of Mr. Bryan, then with what reason may we object to the schemes of "self-aggrandizement" by which certain rich men are "rapidly gaining control of the industries and the commerce of the nation?"

Is there not danger that by the publication of such editorials as these the Kansas City Star will do things "not in accordance with the democratic spirit of this country which gives every man a right to acquire and possess?"

In all seriousness, can a great newspaper like the Kansas City Star hope that its readers will give serious attention to its opinions when on one day it condemns Mr. Bryan for giving utterance to certain sentiments, and on the next day commends Mr. Roosevelt for giving expression to similar sentiments?

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