

Republican Progress

The Official Republican Paper of Monroe County.

Dennis B. Haunga, Editor and Prop.

[OP-TRICK OPPOSITE PAGE OP-TRICK.]

If this paper pleases you tell others not to tell us.

EDITORIAL.

The Summer Savage in Us All.

This is the time of the year when Old Adam stirs in every man who has red corpuscles in his blood. If he were a boy again he would get hold of a pistol and a hunting knife and start west to kill Indians or he would try to run away to the Klondike. Being a man, he knows, what ails him. He knows that he is desperately sick of everything that has seemed interesting and desirable for the last forty-five or fifty weeks. He is sick of his business. Money suddenly becomes filthy lucre. A starched shirt is an invention of the Evil One. Varnished shoes and creased trousers are abominations. The cook cannot please him. He is tired of being a good husband, a fond father, and a prominent citizen. Life is a treadmill.

But this man knows not only what he does not want, but he knows also exactly what he does want. His fancy is busy with thoughts that come only at this particular time. He wonders where his wife has put his old suit of corduroy. He can almost taste a black briar pipe that ought to be in the right-hand side pocket of the coat. He wants to get into a flannel shirt and leave it open at the neck. The thought of the smell of bacon in the frying pan over the camp fire gives him a thrill down to his toes. He finds himself listening for the sound of the trout stream. He dreams of reeling in giant bass that are too heavy for the scales.

But this man's wife is wise. She will suggest about time that he go off on a trip. She will not so much as mention a summer resort, and she will make it plain that she is too busy to go with him. She will convince him that he owes it to her and to the children to throw off for a week or two his cares and responsibilities for the sake of his health. Then he will leave the city by the next boat—unless there is a train that goes sooner.

And for two weeks he will be not a doctor, or lawyer, or merchant, but just a man. He will swing an ax and cut wood for the camp fire. He will sit on a log and clean fish or row half a day so that some other man may cast for bass. He will look like a tramp. He will eat bacon and fried potatoes and flapjacks and drink black coffee and think it a dinner fit for a king. He will be as cheerful as a cricket in an all-day rainstorm when the mosquitoes almost eat him alive and when the cook is an hour late with dinner and things are burned at that. He will slough off his artificial self and be as his creator made. The relentless mind of our nineteenth century may have changed him into a mere money-making machine for fifty weeks in the year, but for the other two he is himself. And, oddest of all, this periodical disturbance passes off as rapidly as it comes. In the course of two weeks or so the man begins to think that maybe sheets and a tight roof would seem good again, that cream would not be so bad once more, and that a shave and clean linen might easily be endured. Then he will come back as suddenly as he went away, take joy once more in his home and family and business, and settle down and be an exemplary citizen for fifty weeks more.

This intense desire of the American to get into the woods and live like his forefathers of generations ago is a national characteristic and helps to make him what he is. This is why he is always ready to fight when it seems to be his duty. This is why he makes the best soldier in the world—self-respecting, self-reliant, and the handiest man in the field that ever shouldered a rifle.

The Woman on Farm.

Aside from any reference to your marital obligations, it will pay in a cold, heartless, financial way to take good care of the wife and mother on the farm. In this sense alone she is worth far more than your best cow or your best horse, and still not few women would be glad of the care and consideration given by the man on the farm to these barnyard pets. A man never really realizes what the good wife has been worth to him until he has buried her and like an old fool tries his luck again with some young girl or a grass widow. We call to mind a case in point where a well-to-do farmer practically killed his wife by hard work and neglect and later ran across a scheming widow. He managed to live with her for just six weeks and then cheerfully decided to her one-third of his valuable estate to be well rid of her. It is everlasting right that a man who abuses and neglects his wife should sooner or later run foul of some woman who will even things up for him.

THE LESSON OF THE B. & O.

There are in Bloomington, as in all other communities that contain men who think, a good many advocates of public ownership of public utilities. They are confined to no special party; but they are a class of men who are given to bizarre in politics. They are what are vaguely described as "reformers," and the reins they hold in regard to the larger public questions are such as are generally considered by conservative men to be socialistic. The sociological side of politics has the greatest attraction for them, but they are not in every case willing to identify themselves with the visionary persons who are given to the formation of men and transitory political parties.

Most civil-headed Americans have agreed that there are possible changes in our public policy that would bring greater happiness to a greater number, and they recognize the fact that these changes, if they ever come indeed, are likely to be brought about through the agency of one of the great existing parties. As federal ownership has not yet been incorporated into the platform of either, it has thus far had to rely for whatever support it got, upon the agency of lesser and irregular bodies.

It is a tremendous domestic issue in its way, and of such uncertain results that it is not to be wondered that the great political organizations have been chary of espousing it. There are known some existing examples which throw a little light on the possibilities of the plan. One of the best of these is the case of the Baltimore and Ohio railway, which has just been restored to its stockholders, after three years, operation by a receiver.

While under the receivership this great property was well managed, and turned over to the owners again in better condition than when the court was placed in control.

Permanent improvements have been made increasing materially the value of the road and advancing its earning capacity. During the period of the receiver ship the gross receipts were \$92,899,546.89 and the operating expenses, including large outlays for maintenance of track and equipment were \$68,148,583.50, leaving a balance of \$24,750,063.39. This matter is interesting as indicating to a certain extent the possibilities of government operation of a railroad system; for while the Baltimore & Ohio was controlled by the court it was truly operated by the government as an official of the executive department had been directing affairs instead of a judge. This experience shows that government operation may be productive of good results as private operation indeed, in this case the private management was fast ruining the road, and it was necessary for the court to take possession for a time and manage the property in order that its value should not be still further impaired.

Indiana Senators.

It is apparent that Indiana has two representatives in the upper house of Congress who are alive to the interests of the people of their state and of the nation at large. Instead of putting in the vacation season looking after their individual affairs, or at some pleasure resort, as many senators do, the Indiana men have been making personal and practical observations of matters connected with their official duties. They have posted themselves, so that when the senate meets they will be able to consider important questions intelligently and understandingly.

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We follow, all of us, one flag. It symbolizes our purposes and our aspirations; it represents what we believe and what we mean to maintain and wherever it floats it is the flag of the free and the hope of the oppressed, and wherever and whenever it is assailed it is the flag of the free.

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He is reported that the Democrats are thinking of inviting Rear Admiral Schley to take their nomination for the Presidency next year. We are confident, assuming that the report is correct, that they will have their labor for their pains.

"Rear-Admiral" has a good sound, but rear-Presidential candidate has not. Schley doubtless can read the signs of the times well enough to realize that any candidate who runs against McKinley in 1900 is destined to emerge from the canvass at the rear. It may safely be taken for granted, therefore, that he will promptly decline the empty honor in question in case it is offered him.

When a man says something that was wrong in an argument he afterwards apologizes; a woman will never apologize unless she is in the right.

HELEN KELLER.

One of the most pitiful figures in the world is Helen Keller, deaf, dumb and blind. Think what this means! And yet this dweller alone in the world of darkness and of silence has, by touch, been brought into companionship with Goebel and his methods. All but a few remote counties were represented. The general attendance was 4000, and the convention performed its work with a vigor and sincerity that leave no doubt concerning the weight of the movement. It involves a division of the Democratic party of the state so serious that it is a question now if John Young Brown will not receive more votes for Governor than Goebel can secure. Brown was nominated by acclamation at Lexington. Goebel was nominated at Louisville by the vilest trickery and the boldest tyranny of the chairman, all contrived by Goebel and under his direction. Goebel robbed hundreds of delegates of their seats and the majority on the floor of the right of appeal. It was audacious in the extreme. It was far too brazen to be tolerated, and Goebel finds himself at the head of a faction repudiated by the honest Democrats of the state.

Aside from all party considerations this revolt in Kentucky is an encouraging event. The platform adopted denounces the Goebel election law, which, while partisan, is also an assault on the rights of every voter in the state. Under such a law the government of Kentucky would quickly degenerate into the rule of a small ring armed with authority to alter the returns and overturn a true majority. Goebel showed his teeth as an autocrat at the Louisville convention, but miscalculated the tolerance of cheating by Kentuckians. Beyond all question the great body of men in the state are opposed to stealing elections. But large masses move slowly, and the nimble Goebel thought his political sleight-of-hand would be submitted to in the end. He was mistaken, and his discomfiture is a matter of congratulation among American citizens. The Goebel experiment is not likely to be imitated in other states. The people are for honest elections, and Kentucky reveals their determined purpose to protect the sovereignty of the ballot.

THE KENTUCKY SITUATION.

The man in the buggy is now abroad in the country among the grangers. He may be the church parson or the parish priest, looking after the spiritual welfare of the deacons and pillars of their respective churches, or he may be a fellow taking orders for short weight and adulterated Chicago groceries, or he may be a chap with some fine clothes which his uncle has smuggled in from Canada, or he may be a slick schemer with a patent right to sell, or he may be in the lightning rod business, or some fellow begging for an office. When they come to your place, always excepting the parson and priest, whistle for old Towze and get ready for business. Those chaps all have tongues hung on ball bearings, and your best means of protection is to administer the grand bounce just as soon as they set foot on your premises. Keep an eye out for the man in the buggy.

Certain Western Democrats accuse Arthur P. Gorman of plotting to swindle Mr. Bryan out of the Presidential nomination. It is to be had that Mr. Gorman can't let Mr. Bryan's personal property alone.

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Ex-Governor Grant of Colorado, treasurer of the Bryan campaign fund in 1896, and Marcus Daly, one of the most liberal contributors to the fund that year, declared 16 to 1 and declared the devil to account for it.

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