

# RENSSELAER REPUBLICAN AND JOURNAL DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

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Colonel W. H. Jacks.

While completing plans for retirement, sickness and death overtook Col. W. H. Jacks, the oldest Odd Fellow and court clerk in the state. The end came September 22nd, and Mr. Jacks in his conscious moments during the last few days was ready and willing to go in order that he might be relieved from his terrible suffering from Bright's disease. But it was with patience that he bore it and awaited the call hence with the same fortitude with which he has labored so many long years in a class of woe that was most trying.

He realized about a year ago that he was getting too old for his work and made up his mind to retire at the end of the present year when the office changes hands. With this end in view, he purchased the Hawkin property on Clifton avenue and with his wife who was Anna M. Webb and whom he married in 1857 at Williamsport, settled down and began to be ready for an easier life. Then came sickness and death and his plans were upset. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacks were born five children all deceased. Col. Jacks was a life long member of the Christian church and did much toward building the handsome new edifice here.

Uncle Billy, as he was familiarly known about the court house, was taken ill about three weeks ago. He had not been well before that but as the summer court vacation was on and he had completed the docket for the present term, his work was not hard, and what there was for him to do was lessened by his associates in office. In this manner he stayed until within a few days before the beginning of the September term and then remarked to several as he passed from the building he had occupied so long never to enter again. "I'm worn out and I guess I'm all in." He had reached a stage where his work was no longer of interest and where he was willing to lay down the responsibility that others might take it up. The Colonel, a title which he received from long connection and office in the Patriarchs Militant Canton I. O. O. F. was born in Rush county, Jan. 2, 1830 and had reached his 78th year of life.

Along in the fifties President Buchanan appointed Mr. Jacks postmaster at Rensselaer, the place paying \$10 a month. George W. Spiller was then clerk and recorder of Jasper county and he induced Mr. Jacks to move the postoffice into his office, which was done, and which was the first work in court that Mr. Jacks ever performed.

In 1860 Mr. Jacks went to Pulaski county and a few months later was elected clerk of that county, taking the office in May, 1861, and holding it for eight years. Almost immediately following his retirement from office there the services of a good record clerk were in demand here and he was selected as the most available man for the place. Since then with a few exceptions he has held down the job and there is not a lawyer practicing at the bar but what will say his records show for themselves and never needed changing.

One of the periods when Uncle Billy was out of the court house was when President Cleveland, in 1893, appointed him consul to London, Ontario, Canada. The position was accepted and filled with credit, the old gentleman making many friends there with whom a correspondence was kept up until he failed in health.

At Rensselaer in 1854 Col. Jacks was made an Odd Fellow and was continuously in good standing until his death. He held some of the highest offices in the order in the state. He enrolled in Logan lodge here in 1869. The year following he was instrumental in organizing Eel River lodge 417, and was one of its charter members.

The funeral was conducted under the auspices of the I. O. O. F. order, Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, from the residence, Rev. J. H. Craig, of the Christian church officiating. Burial in Mt. Hope—Logansport Pharo.

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In the smoking car of life some men are merely chewing a stub.

## The Candidates and the Negro.

The most remarkable fact in connection with the American negro is that in the former slave states he is worse off politically and no better off socially than he was forty years ago. By devices which are a matter of current history and which have been so adroitly framed as to evade reversal by the supreme court he has been deprived of the ballot conferred on him by the Republican party, compelled to ride in cars separate from the whites and in every way made to feel that the change from legal bondage to freedom has made no difference in the attitude of the white race toward him.

These are the conditions brought about by Democrats in states where Democrats rule. The Democratic party has spared no effort to degrade the negro to nearly as possible the level of slavery times and has made wider than ever the dividing line which separates the two races. In taking this position the Democrats of the former slave states have the express approval of the Democratic candidate for the presidency, William J. Bryan, who, when questioned on the subject immediately after an address which he had delivered in New York city on "Universal Brotherhood," took ground firmly in favor of negro disfranchisement.

The only intelligible deduction from the Denver declaration and Bryan's and Parker's speeches in support of it is that Bryan, if elected, would seek to abolish the rural free delivery system.

Bryan and his platform denounce the expense of the free delivery system as an unnecessary addition to the burdens of the country, and Bryan would be bound, if elected, to see the burden removed.

What do American farmers and other country residents, to whom rural free delivery has been an inestimable blessing, think of the Democratic declaration against it?

The Republican party, represented by Taft and Sherman, proposes not only to maintain but to extend the rural free delivery system, which has been of the greatest benefit both to the rural community and to business of all kinds.

Subscriptions to newspapers, local and metropolitan, have increased enormously, and farmers are able to keep advised of market quotations and to sell their produce to the best advantage.

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## Democratic Attack on the Rural Free Delivery System.

In view of the fact that Alton B. Parker, late Democratic candidate for the presidency, joins Bryan and the Democratic Denver platform in attacking the Republican party for, as the platform and Parker put it, "adding 90,000 officeholders at an annual charge upon the country of over \$70,000,000" to the roll of national servants, it is a reasonable inference that it is the purpose of Bryan, in accordance with and in obedience to the Denver platform on which he stands, to do away with these officeholders and save the \$70,000,000. Otherwise the platform would be meaningless and misleading.

Who are the officeholders, and what is the money paid for?

The sum of \$35,500,000—more than half the amount complained of—is paid out to maintain the rural free delivery system on 39,270 routes serving 16,000,000 of people in all parts of the United States, and the carriers on those routes are the "officeholders" whose employment the Democratic platform, Bryan and Parker denounce as unnecessary and extravagant.

The only intelligible deduction from the Denver declaration and Bryan's and Parker's speeches in support of it is that Bryan, if elected, would seek to abolish the rural free delivery system.

A few probabilities, however, reach to what Bishop Butler called a moral certainty that is practically a demonstration. The radical elements behind Bryan would insist upon appointments so wild and dangerous that a desperate fight in the senate might be expected, and, whatever the upshot of the wrangle, public time would be wasted in the strife. Imagine a first class southern fire eater announcing that he would discharge every colored soldier now in the army! Imagine that man as a candidate for a circuit judgeship!

The imprudent selections Mr. Bryan would make, the more imprudent ones forced upon him might bring on a series of altercations unparalleled since the days of Andrew Johnson. Before we have a supreme court reconstructed as Mr. Bryan would like to reconstruct it there will be a legislative battle long and wearisome to everybody.

So much for the radicals. On the other side, the Cleveland and Parker elements of the Democracy, if they support Bryan at all, will support him with a qualification. They may, for the sake of party regularity, work for him, but if he is elected president they will by all means try to defeat all his pet measures.

No man in this country, least of all Bryan himself, believes that the Bryanites must be when they deliberately attack one of the most beneficial measures ever devised for the uplifting, the comfort and convenience of many millions of Americans—the rural free delivery system.