

The State Journal

Official Paper of the City of Topeka.

By FRANK P. MACLENNAN.

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HOW WE GROW.

THE TOPEKA DAILY STATE JOURNAL. Nearly 10,000 Now. 9,478.

The issues of the TOPEKA DAILY STATE JOURNAL for January, 1891, January, 1892, and January, 1893, were as follows:

Table with columns: DAY, Jan. 1891, Jan. 1892, Jan. 1893. Rows 1-31 showing circulation numbers.

\*Sunday, no issue. The above is a correct report of the issues of the TOPEKA DAILY STATE JOURNAL in the months of January, 1891, January, 1892, and January, 1893, and shows a daily average of 8,399, 8,410 and 9,478 for the respective months named. The daily average for the last six months of 1894 was 8,852.

(Signed) Frank MacLennan, Editor and Proprietor.

Sworn to and subscribed Feb. 11, 1895. E. M. COCKRELL, Clerk of the District Court, Shawnee County, Kansas.

How We Grow: In the year 1885, the circulation was 800. Daily average for year 1890, 3,125. Daily average for year 1892, 5,069. Daily average for year 1893, 6,218. Daily average for year 1894, 8,415. Daily average for last six months 1894, 8,852.

Weather Indications. CHICAGO, March 30.—Forecast for Kansas: Fair tonight; Tuesday fair and warmer; north winds becoming southerly Tuesday.

Burr Oak Herald: Governor McKinley is said to have declared that he would not accept a nomination on a silver platform and also to have said that should the Republican party declare for free silver that he would quit the party. Good bye, Mr. McKinley.

An organization in Baltimore known as the Friends' circle wrote to the governors of the states where woman suffrage has been tried for their opinion of its merits. The answers were uniformly favorable, and present a strong endorsement of this important advance in civilization.

EX-SENATOR INGALLS' statement to the Arkansas legislature that a majority of the people are for free silver, proves that his recent traveling over the country has not been devoid of results. The Republican party might go further and fare worse than to nominate Mr. Ingalls for president next year.

Has anybody heard of an offer to buy government bonds made payable in silver? In all probability such bonds could not be sold for more than 50 cents on the dollar, and it is doubtful if they could be sold at all.—Ottawa Herald.

Of course not, with silver depreciated in value by legislation. Restore silver to its rightful place and there would be no difficulty in selling silver bonds. But there would be no occasion to sell bonds of any kind, and that is what's the matter with the bond purchasers. It would be well to remember, however, that the bonds that were sought for so greedily a short time ago are payable in coin which may be either gold or silver.

NEBRASKA has just furnished to the world another example of state paternalism against which so much has been said and written. The legislature has enacted a law over the governor's veto, which provides for the payment of a bounty of 3/4 of a cent a pound by the state for every pound of best sugar which shall be produced, provided the grower of the beets used shall have received \$5 a pound for his crop. The people of the entire state are to be taxed for the benefit of the few who manufacture sugar and the other few who raise beets. Why the legislature did not go further and say that the laborers in the sugar factory should receive two dollars a day, and the farm hands who cultivate the beets the same compensation, is not explained. It might have been well also to have stipulated the amount of interest that should be paid to the man who loaned the money to carry on both branches of the business of sugar production. The amount of rent which should be paid for the land on which to grow the beets was also left undetermined. It was perhaps on account of these many omissions that the Populist governor vetoed the bill. Populists are such out and out believers in paternalism.

MR. CALDERHEAD'S VIEWS.

A correspondent of the Clay Center Times in a letter to that paper from Washington undertakes to define and defend Congressman Calderhead's position on the silver question. Following is an abstract from the letter: "What he advocates he believes to be for the best interest of his district and the United States, and he does not propose to temper his opinions for the sake of political preferment. He is a bimetalist; but bimetalism is an expansive term and can and does cover a multitude of opinions. He favors and will contend for laws that will maintain the equality of gold and silver as money without destroying their parity, and also the largest use of paper currency that can be maintained without depreciation."

Mr. Calderhead's constituents believe in the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, as Mr. Calderhead very well knows. It will not do to hide behind the fact that they voted for him after he was honest enough to declare his opposition to silver. People are often compelled to vote for a man who does not express their views as a choice between evils. It was clear to the people of the Fifth district that neither of the other candidates were in accord with them on the silver question, which fact in connection with their ardor for the "redemption of Kansas" caused them to support Mr. Calderhead notwithstanding his antagonism to silver, relying upon his honesty and hoping perhaps that when elected he would conclude to vote in accordance with the sentiment of his district rather than with his own personal views.

"Bimetalism is an expansive term," he says. It is so expansive that a whole host of politicians have been able to hide behind it. It means everything or nothing, according to the point of view. The people will not be fooled by it longer. The line of battle has been marked out. On one side are those who favor a single gold standard; on the other the believers in the restoration of silver to where it was. There is no longer any middle ground or any room to dodge. There can be no more skulking in the brush by the people's servants without being called to account. He that is not for silver is against it and will be dealt with accordingly. The true friends of silver have no difficulty in making themselves understood. The advocates of silver coinage are making no light on gold, hence there is no use for the term "bimetalism." Scratch a "bimetalist" and you will find a gold bug nearly every time.

The following extract from the editorial columns of the Boston Traveler indicates that the silver question has broken out in an aggravated form even as far east as Massachusetts:

The transition from the double to the single standard has been accompanied by widespread distress, from which not even the "moneyed man" has been free. Both the two leading parties profess to be bimetallic, but dare not practise it. A large share of the individual members of both parties are bimetalists. If either party pronounces for gold only, all such members will be driven at once to the other. So both will try to be non-committal, and positive men will be forced toward a more party, simply, if for no other reason, because it will be positive.

KANSAS PARAGRAPHS.

Twelve new guns have been added to the artillery at Ft. Riley.

Florence hasn't any style about her at all. She is out of debt.

The Lawrence Gazette says that Cy Leland is the Kansas Parkhurst.

The Independence Tribune has introduced the civil war as an issue in the city campaign.

An Atchison man who aspired to be only a distinguished poet has developed into a horse trader.

Among the Winfield college students, life's awful fever is on. They have organized a boating club.

The first warm days of spring have had the effect of the catnip at Ft. Riley playing to standing room only.

Dandelion greens have made their appearance in Lawrence, and everyone knows now that spring "has come."

The first thing Representative Thisher did after he went home was to sue the Santa Fe for \$94 for killing a nice Jersey cow.

Atchison claims the peculiar distinction of having two policemen who do not eat peanuts and candy from street stands.

The Mankato Review believes the rains have done great good to the crops but unfortunately have drowned all the fishes in the streams.

Smith County Pioneer: It is not the high hats at the theaters that bother us; western newspaper fellows, it is the ones at the millinery stores.

A Lawrence decorator wants to buy a horse and pay for it in paper. The trouble is too many horses have been paid for in paper which can't be discounted.

Norton Champion: Women are so inconsistent. A woman belonging to the Vegetarian association of New York city got real angry because somebody said she had curly hair.

The Osborne News is authority for the statement that a Downs woman who is a county charge, went into a drug store, bought a box of face powder and ordered it charged to the county.

Osborne News: The following sign was seen the other day near a little town in Smith county: "15 MILLS 2 SMITH SENTER IF YOU CANT RED THIS SINE, INKWRITE AT THE NIZT HOUS. HE IS A REPUBLICAN, BU T DARNME IF I AINT TRED ANSERN KUESTUNZ."

Smith county has a lead pipe cinch on one office under the present administration says the Pioneer. Under the new law there is to be a fish warden in each county of the state. We would like to see any man from the eastern part of the state take that away from us.

All woollens washed in soft water at TOPEKA STEAM LAUNDRY.

Good work done by the Peerless.

HE SITS BY THE DOOR.

Capt. Isaac Bassett and His Long Service in the Senate.

WRITING A BOOK OF REMINISCENCES.

His Set Ways—He is Always Mentioned in the Appropriation Bills—Other Senate Employees.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Captain Isaac Bassett has been in the employ of the United States senate since December, 1831—63 years. He holds the record, and it is likely to remain unchallenged, for in these days of rotation in office very few men have the opportunity to grow gray in public service. There is a good deal of humbug about old Isaac Bassett. He is of such picturesque figure and unique experience that the people who write of Washington surround his name from time to time with a halo of romance, and it is an open question whether the people who visit the capitol during the session of congress pay more attention to the vice president of the United States or the old man who acts as chief of the senate pages. Assistant doorkeeper is the sounding official title of Captain Bassett, but chief page is his occupation, and the measure of his capacity is found in the fact that he entered the senate chamber as a page 63 years ago, and today he is still a page. The truth about Bassett is that he is a rather narrow old man whose father was a workman for the senate, and who came into service as a page or errand boy. The pages of 1831 were not the pampered, well dressed little fellows of 1894. They were not petted and privileged, and they did not draw \$2.50 a day for running after copies of bills and reports and getting occasional glasses of water for thirsty statesmen. There were two pages in 1831, and their pay was \$1.50 a day. This was excessive pay for errand work, and it was probably justified, like the excessive wages of the page boys today, on sentimental grounds. The pages of



CAPTAIN BASSETT TAKES A PINCH OF SNUFF.

1895, as a rule, have widowed mothers dependent on them for support. The senate is a very sentimental, soft hearted body where sugar and iron and coal are not concerned.

Webster Took Him on His Knee. Captain Bassett, as I said, was the son of a man who kept the old senate chamber (now the supreme court room) in order, or, as Bassett himself now explains it, "I had charge of the senate chamber." The young Bassett used to play about the senate chamber when he was 10 years old, and several of the senators took a kindly interest in him. One of these was Daniel Webster, and Captain Bassett claims that he can still remember the morning of the great speech of Webster in reply to Hayne because Senator Webster on that morning took the little Bassett on his knee and spoke kindly to him. Probably at this time the elder Bassett, as is the habit of fathers in the government service, was scheming to get his son on the salary roll. At any rate, in the next year Mr. Webster asked the boy if he wanted to be a page and persuaded the senate to make the necessary appropriation for his employment. Naturally Captain Bassett reveres the memory of his early patron, and he does not hesitate, when he expresses any opinion at all, to say that there are no orators today like those of half a century ago. Captain Bassett, however, is not much given to expressing opinions. He is shrewd enough not to open his mouth very wide.

Of course long and faithful service brought promotion. No one probably ever thought of removing Bassett. There may have been the same fierce desire for offices under the senate 50 years ago that there is today, but there was not the same disposition to turn out partisans or nonpartisans to make room for political workers. Iconoclasts like Wolcott and Dubois are peculiar to this day and generation in the senate. So Bassett continued to fulfill the duties of a page long after he had passed the age limit until he became as much a part of the senate chamber's furniture as the desks, or the chairs, or the old ivory leg. Then as a mark of special honor, in recognition of his faithfulness, his name was inserted in the appropriation bill, and there it remains today. And so long as the salary of his place is appropriated for Isaac Bassett no vandal secretary of the senate can disturb the old man in his place, and no sergeant-at-arms can touch him. Isaac Bassett is one of the few employees of the government who is independent of his superior officers.

His Reminiscences.

In his long experience in the senate Captain Bassett has witnessed some of the most celebrated debates and some of the most memorable scenes in the history of the American congress. If he had the power of description, he could unfold a story of amazing interest. But, then, if he had that descriptive power he would not have been contented to remain a senate page for more than half a century. So many people, however, have said to him that he ought to be able to furnish valuable and interesting contributions to the personal history of

statesmen of the past generation that the old man has been led into the promise that he would write a book of reminiscences. That promise was given 13 or 14 years ago. Every little while some one asks the captain how the book is getting on, and he shakes his head very mysteriously and says that he expects to publish it before very long. No one has ever seen the first sheet of the captain's manuscript, and so the Bassett reminiscences have come to be a byword in Washington.

In personal conversation Bassett usually refuses to talk about any of his heroes. He surrounds them with mystery, shaking his head ominously with an expression which is intended to mean, "I could tell some things if I would." But beyond the fact that Webster and Clay were great speakers; that Clay used snuff persistently and that Webster and Douglas drank too much he will not even identify the desks which were used by these great men. He claims that he can distinguish them by private marks, and that he has a record which refreshes his memory when that is necessary, but he is afraid that if the visitors to the senate chamber knew which desk was used by Webster they would chip pieces from it for relics. There is no doubt that Webster's desk is on the senate floor, and so are all the other desks which were put in use about 60 years ago. There were 53 of these mahogany desks originally.

Snuff in the Senate.

Captain Bassett has a number of souvenirs of his service, but the most notable of these is the snuffbox of gold which was presented to him by the senators on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his appointment as a page. He delights in explaining that he acquired the taste for snuff taking by following the example of Henry Clay. In those days snuff was kept for the use of senators in a box which stood on a shelf near the presiding officer's desk. Mr. Clay never brought his own snuffbox with him to the senate for fear that if it was before him he would take too much. He usually called one of the two pages when he wanted a pinch. Or if they were busy he would walk down the aisle of the chamber, sometimes in the middle of a speech, calmly take his snuff and return to his place. The senate still provides snuff for its members. Regularly each year appears in the report of the expenses of the secretary of the senate, "For five pound jar Barnum's mixture snuff for use of United States senate, \$8." Most of this snuff is consumed by Captain Bassett, but his gold snuffbox is always at the service of senators, and one or two of them—notably Senator Morrill—still take a pinch from it occasionally.

Captain Bassett's little peculiarities include more than snuff taking. He dresses invariably in black out of respect for the senate. He has two suits of clothing made each year. One is a frock suit of black broadcloth, and it is always shining and spotless. The other suit is lighter in weight and is for summer use. The coat is of black alpaca, and with this he wears a white vest. The captain's hair is long and silky. Every morning he comes to the senate barber shop and has it dressed. The barber brushes it straight down the back of his head to a point about an inch above his standing collar. There the straight fall is broken into a regular wave. Every hair follows exactly the direction of its fellows. This coiffure the captain preserves throughout the day. Not even the oldest member of the senate can say that he ever saw Bassett's hair rumpled. Supporting the dignity of the senate is Bassett's chief duty. Another is to keep the pages on one side of the vice president's rostrum in order. A third is to meet the clerk from the house or the private secretary from the executive mansion bearing a message to the senate and to announce him to the presiding officer. It is in this occupation, where he spreads his long legs compasslike and ducks his venerable head, saying hoarsely, "A message from the president of the United States!" that he is most familiar to the public.

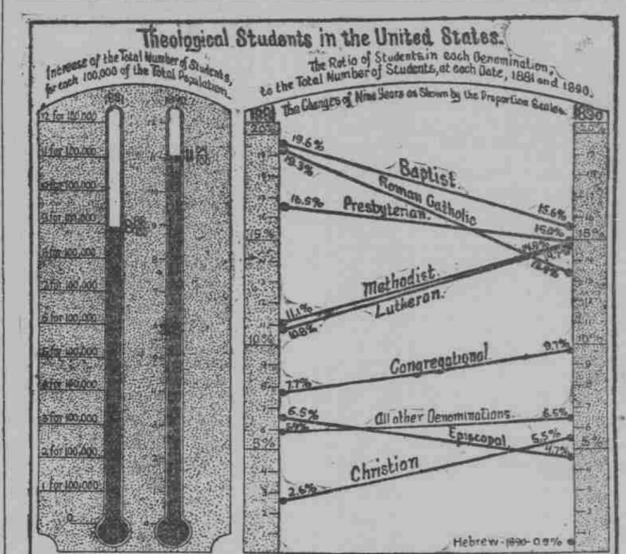
He Controls the Clock.

His most unique performance is on the last day of the short session when the hour of noon approaches. At five minutes before 12 o'clock Captain Bassett walks down the aisle of the senate bearing a long pole and pokes the hands of the big clock back 10 or 15 minutes. Now congress does not expire at noon by the senate clock. It expires at midday. No court has ever passed on the question, but it would not surprise a great many people who have seen Captain Bassett go through this absurd performance if some act of congress of great importance was some day invalidated by the supreme court because it was signed by the president after midday of March 4.

The salary which Captain Bassett draws for performing the onerous duties which I have described is \$5,092 a year. That is not at all bad, and yet, considering the fact that the captain does not come in for the "extras" which are distributed so freely among the senate clerks, it is by comparison not excessive. The sergeant-at-arms draws \$4,500 and the secretary of the senate \$5,396. And each of these officials has perquisites. For example, Secretary Cox draws a regular amount from the contingent fund for the hire of horse and carriage to take messages to the president, while the clerks who go to the White House with these messages travel in the cars. But then every one in the senate employ gets as much out of Uncle Sam as he can. The senate librarian, for example, has been drawing \$1,000 a year for many years, in addition to his salary of \$2,200, for preparing an index which is never published. Hardly a year passes that \$4,000 or \$5,000 is not given to employees for "index" or other work done during regular office hours. And with few exceptions an annual sum of \$30,000 or \$40,000 is given as "an extra month's pay" to men who under the general law usually receive 12 months' salary for six months' work.

GEORGE GRANTHAM BAIN.

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AN EDUCATED MINISTRY.

The Commissioner of Education of the United States, in his annual report issued in 1894, presents two very graphic studies to illustrate the growth of theological schools in this country in the nine years 1881-1890. The left-hand study shows the per cent of increase in the number of theological students as compared with the whole population. The study on the right shows the comparative (compared not with the population, but each with the other) progress made by the leading denominations. The Baptist denomination is shown to have had more students both dates, yet it is plain the proportion of the total was much less in 1890 than in 1881. This does not at all interfere with the fact that the actual number of Baptist students has increased more than 20 per cent. It simply shows that they have lost more in the comparison.

SILVER MEN'S PLANS.

Democrats and Republicans Form a Compact for the Country's Good.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 1.—It is not probable that when the time comes around for a presidential campaign Mr. Sibley, who has been named so far in advance by the Bimetallic League, will take the field as a candidate of the silver men. The silver leaders desire to avoid the necessity of organizing silver men into the third party, and much work is being done to that end. The action of the Bimetallic league in starting an organization is not antagonistic to the general plan of working as far as possible within the old party, but is expected to fit in exactly with the general scheme. There is an extraordinary activity among the silver men at this time, and much more even than the public conceive is being done in preparing for the struggle of 1896.

An effort is being made to reach an understanding between the leading silver Democrats and the leading silver Democrats whereby they will unite in supporting the candidate of either of the old parties which shall select a free coinage man for a candidate or to bolt from both parties if they both adhere to the gold standard policy.

They have become convinced that the plan of the anti-silver men is to practically abandon all effort to control congress in favor of sound money, and to devote themselves entirely to the procurement of a president who will stand in the way of silver legislation.

It is understood among the leaders that they are not to be influenced by their party associations to support any candidate whose position on this question is not entirely satisfactory to them. If the silver leaders can accomplish an effective understanding among their people, they will probably devote their efforts to the accomplishment of what is desired through the medium of the old party conventions, one or the other.

If both the old parties fail to fully recognize the silver sentiment both in the platform and nomination, there are two courses which it is proposed to pursue. One is to select as a silver candidate on an independent ticket some free coinage man who is both prominent and influential in one of the old parties and who has not heretofore gone off on any side issue or been suspected of weakness of loyalty to his party.

The other proposition is to name no candidate, but to vote for independent electors in each state pledged on assembling in the electoral college to vote for some man for president who can be relied upon to loyally support the cause of the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1. In some states these independent electors might be chosen by Republican voters and in others by Democratic voters, but all would finally unite on a free-coinage man for president.

It is said that the silver men will not be satisfied with the nomination of either Reed, McKinley, Harrison, Allison or Whitney.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS MIXED.

A Big Shortage in a St. Louis Concern.

St. Louis, April 1.—A morning paper states that a meeting held recently at which were present some of the best known grain merchants of St. Louis, who were formerly associated together under the commercial title of the Mer-

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