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Keokuk, Iowa, November 19, 1908.

China is having a bank panic—further evidence that that country is making great strides in civilization.

The late Editor Carmack's pen was so bitter that his paper was frequently referred to as a Gnashville publication.

The fatted turkey has good reason to believe that the theory of the full dinner pail is soon to become a stern reality.

Mr. Bryan says "there will be another election in 1912." Certainly. And another overwhelming Democratic defeat.

The eternal fitness of things is again illustrated in the sending of Morse, the New York "ice king," to the cooler.

A pseudo-scientific lecturer in Chicago declares that the snakes men see when they have delirium tremens are real. That is what they all say.

The Mt. Airy Record-News, in speaking of the demise of the Des Moines Tribune as a Democratic organ of the Bryan type, says it died of cholera infantum.

During the year ending June 30 last seventy-one men were killed and 959 injured in coupling cars. There is still room for improvement in the matter of railroad fatalities.

Tennessee may properly be put in the list of doubtful states in the next presidential campaign. The Bryan majority there was less than 16,000 in a total vote of 257,000.

Illinois and Iowa lead in corn production, with Nebraska in third place. The advance of the last named state in this particular in recent years has been little short of marvelous.

In accounting for the election result this year the Charleston News and Courier declares that "the Democrats lost last week's election at Chicago in 1896." That was the year the Democratic party surrendered to Bryan after hearing his "crown of thorns and cross of gold" speech.

Whiskey in tablets and in the form of stick candy has made its appearance in some parts of the country. The innovation was introduced by representatives of a liquor house in Kentucky as a way to get around the local option law. The prohibition people are wrought up over the invasion and will take the matter up with the county authorities, with the view to banishing the deceptive Jug tablets.

The annual reports of the Burlington and the Illinois Central railroad companies filed with the state railroad commission show slight decreases in the passenger receipts during the first year of the two-cent fare law. The Burlington fell off \$36,579 and the Illinois Central \$47,334 in passenger receipts. The former does not report the number of passengers carried, but the Illinois Central carried 232,000 more people during the first year of the two-cent fare and anti-pass law operation than during the last year previous. The Burlington's gross earnings were \$10,348,734 in 1908, as compared with \$10,733,262 in 1907; the

operating expenses were \$7,669,751 in 1908 and \$7,405,170 in 1907; the net earnings were \$2,678,983 as compared with \$3,328,092 and the passenger receipts were \$2,727,865 this year as against \$2,764,314 last year.

The Democratic executive committee, the headquarters of which are in Columbus, Ohio, have already put forward Judson Harmon governor-elect, for the presidential nomination in 1912. This has been done without the consent of the Peerless One and without consultation with him, which leads the Brooklyn Eagle, an independent Democratic paper, to say: If the Peerless One would not lose his title as the perennial Democratic candidate for the presidency, he must be up and doing. The campaign for 1912 must be begun now. There is no knowing what damage to prescriptive rights may be done by these restless and impudent country committees. In eternal vigilance only is the price of continued presidential nominations. There are, indeed, treacherous and faithless murmurers up in Minnesota of a name that sounds like Johnson. Time must not be lost.

There will be only eight farmers in the new state senate which meets in Des Moines in January, but there will be forty-seven in the house. The lawyers number only twenty, bankers sixteen, merchants five, real estate dealers, manufacturers and editors, three each; druggists two, doctors three, insurance agent one, preachers three, abstractors one, electrical engineer one, and teamster one. Four of the senators have had military service and fifteen of the house members. The oldest member of the house will be John A. Cousins of Butler county, aged seventy-one, and the youngest will be H. H. Boettger of Scott, aged twenty-four. The youngest senator will be H. L. Adams of Fayette, aged thirty-two, and the oldest, Jas. A. Fitzpatrick of Story, aged sixty-eight, with Capt. John D. Brown of Decatur the same age.

It is announced from Chicago that Governor Deneen proposes to treat the deep waterway, to construct which the state of Illinois has authorized the issuance of \$20,000,000 in bonds, as requiring emergency legislation. He has instructed the Internal Improvement Commission to prepare the necessary bills. They will be introduced early in the legislative session in January, and the governor's influence in the general assembly will be used to secure their passage to take effect immediately. It has been the belief of men interested in the proposed legislation that no actual work could be done on the waterway for at least four years. The governor is convinced that most of the preliminary work has been done and that the state can not get at the actual construction too quickly. Lyman E. Cooley, the well-known hydraulic engineer, is quoted as saying that there is no reason why dirt should not be flying within six months.

BRYAN AND NEBRASKA. In a lengthy letter in the Utica (N. Y.) Observer Dr. George L. Miller of Omaha, the venerable and beloved former editor of the Omaha Herald, explains the preponderance of votes in Nebraska for Bryan. He declares that Bryan did not carry that state as against Taft. The meager plurality of 4,000 votes which stands to his credit was brought about by two strictly local issues. The first of these was the passage of a two-cent-a-mile passenger rate law, without discrimination as to population in sparsely settled localities and a sweeping cut in freight rates by a Republican legislature. Railroad managers at once began to hedge on the cost of operating their lines, and the first man struck was the workman, indirectly by a halt in construction, and then quiet discharge from the service. Then came the panic. Eight thousand men were driven out of employment on the Union Pacific alone from sheer necessity. The railroad workmen bitterly resented this attack on the railroads by a Republican legislature and six months ago began to organize to defend the roads and themselves. The railroad managers had nothing whatever to do with this action. It was taken by the employees on their own motion. The late election found them 20,000 strong at the ballot boxes voting in large majority for the Democratic ticket, and in less numbers for Taft. The result is a legislature that is overwhelmingly Democratic. Dr. Miller declares that Taft would have carried Nebraska in spite of the local interests if the railroad men could have handled the ballot, which was too cumbersome for average discrimination.

The second main influence that carried the state for the Democrats, on the same authority, was the issue of county option (practical prohibition), on which the liquor interests, led by Omaha brewers and organizations throughout the state, who cared for nothing but the defense of their business, and they did their part with deadly effect. "What," inquires Dr. Miller, "did these strong and intelligent German brewers, and the saloon men, as the liberal element, care about the President under such life-and-death conditions?" In concluding his letter Dr. Miller repeats a statement made in the beginning of it that Bryan had no more to do with carrying Nebraska than the old man in the moon had. The writer's long acquaintance with Nebraska politics and his thorough knowledge of conditions there qualify him to speak with authority on the subject.

THE McCALL'S FERRY WATER-POWER.

In an article in the Technical World for December Mr. C. F. Carter gives much interesting information concerning the water power developed in the Susquehanna river at McCall's Ferry. The work of development was begun in October, 1905, by the McCall's Ferry Power company, an organization with a capital stock of ten million dollars, with Cary T. Hutchinson as chief engineer in charge. The plant is not yet completed and will not be until the latter part of 1909 on account of the panic last fall. When in running order the power will be generated by ten pairs of the largest turbines ever built. Each pair of turbines is coupled direct to an electric generator twenty-seven feet in diameter and weighing one hundred and forty-five tons. Each pair will generate 13,500 horse-power. The maximum capacity of the plant under favorable conditions will be 135,000 horse-power at the power house; but the loss in transmission, by floods and other adverse circumstances is expected to reduce the total available for delivery to about 100,000 horse-power.

The work of damming the Susquehanna river was one of great magnitude. The stream drains a basin within an area of 27,000 square miles, and floods are extremely sudden, violent and destructive. Not infrequently the river attains the remarkable record of a flow at high water equal to 225 times its volume at low water. It is navigable for only five miles above its mouth, notwithstanding it is, with the exception of the St. Lawrence, the largest stream flowing into the north Atlantic. Beyond that point the Susquehanna is so full of rocks and shoals and rapids that nothing but an occasional raft at high water has ever passed down. At McCall's Ferry the best available spot for the erection of a great power plant was found. At that place the river is divided into two nearly equal parts by an island standing well up out of the water, forming a sort of longitudinal dam that was very useful in turning the river into one channel or the other in the course of construction. Among other great natural advantages is that from the power house site a narrow rocky gorge between the eastern shore and a chain of islands in which the water flows eighty-five feet deep, forms a natural fall-race on which comparatively little work was required. Preliminary to the work of building the dam it was necessary to construct a permanent concrete bridge 2,000 feet long with arches of forty feet span and with a roadway fifty feet wide carrying four railway tracks, at a cost of \$200,000, but as the interest charges on the capital amount to \$15,000 a month it is estimated that the bridge will have fully paid for itself in interest saved through expediting the work. In the concrete mixing plant the material is handled almost entirely by gravity at the rate of 10,000 cubic yards of concrete in a ten-hour day. As it is mixed it is transferred to cars which are hauled out to the works by small locomotives at a speed of twelve miles an hour. Here the concrete is taken up by two traveling cranes each with four booms 109 feet long, which hoist it to the particular spot where it is needed. So swift and methodical are the movements that the concrete is in place in the dam within ten minutes after it is mixed.

McCall's Ferry is within seventy miles of Philadelphia, Wilmington, Harrisburg, York and Lancaster, where established industries now consume 750,000 horse-power generated by steam. The demand is so greatly in excess of the supply that the McCall's Ferry Power Company is in position to make advantageous terms with the most desirable patrons for the 100,000 horse-power it will have for sale. At present the cost of an arc light in Baltimore, the current for which is supplied by steam power, is about \$95 a year while it is estimated that a satisfactory profit could be made by supplying the light from the plant on the Susquehanna at \$27 a year.

NOTES AND COMMENT. "It isn't hard to lose out when one is used to it," confesses the Sac Democrat. "Mr. Jamieson ought not to burn his bridges behind him," says the Marshalltown Times-Republican, speaking of the report that the congressman-elect from the Eighth Iowa district will sell his newspaper. Three years hence his congressional term will be a pleasant memory. It is noted by the Omaha Bee that Germany is anxious for Balkan peace, while Russia is seeking Balkan pieces. It has been remarked that a woman can fire a line of talk straighter than she can hurl a stone. The Washington Democrat explains that some men who really mean to be truthful are so constructed that their minds are unreliable. According to Alex Miller, who ought to know, old time Democrats always think the returns are not all in if their favorite candidate is not elected. If everybody who owes a letter would write it, a considerable dent would be made in that postal deficit. "Anybody who imagines politics expensive should examine the sworn statements filed by the recent candi-

dates," suggests the Dubuque Times-Journal.

If the Oskaloosa Herald is to be believed it frequently happens that the man who owns the best kept lawn in summer has the worst kept sidewalk in winter.

"There are a great many warm personal friends of Evangelist Billy Sunday," says the Cedar Rapids Gazette, "who wish he would be more choice in the use of language. They do not believe it is necessary to use some of the language attributed to him in order to reach men and fit them for the kingdom of heaven."

Mr. Jamieson of the Eighth district will sell his newspaper as a preliminary to going to congress. The Davenport Times predicts that in two years he will wish he owned it again.

"Look out for bogus five-dollar bills," is the slogan just now of the United States secret service. "While you are doing it you might as well keep your eyes peeled for the good ones, too," suggests the Burlington Gazette.

G. F. Rhehart, editor of the Des Moines Tribune, has prepared a lecture entitled "The Price of Liberty," which he will begin delivering after Dec. 1 when the Tribune passes into other hands. Mr. Rhehart is a brilliant man and well worth hearing.

Tsze Hsi An, the late empress of China, was the child of poor people who lived in Pekin. She was sold as a slave to a great general, and so beautiful was she that he adopted her. He offered her a present to Emperor Hsien Feng, who was so charmed by her looks that he made her his secondary wife, and the birth of a son raised her to first rank. Since his death she has ruled over 14,000 officials and close to 270,000,000 people.

The Senatorial Verdict. Cedar Rapids Republican: "The attitude of your paper on the senatorial succession is very fair and just," said one man last Friday, "but are you not aware that there is a movement to give Major Lacey the long term in the senate, in spite of the primary?"

In reply we will say that we have heard of such a suggestion and one space writer in Des Moines has been filling certain outside papers, like the Minneapolis papers, with that sort of stuff. He gets paid so much a column for it and it is certainly astounding and sensational enough to attract attention and to secure publication. But there is not a word of truth in it. We have heard that a few men in the Des Moines headquarters are still unreconciled to the result of the primary, but their efforts will be of no avail. We all agreed to abide by the result of the primary. The primary was not entirely fair, insofar as some Democrats not entitled to participate in it did nevertheless participate, but there were not enough of these to invalidate the verdict, either in morals or in law.

If Mr. Cummins had been defeated he would have abided by the result. But as he was not beaten his opponents are in duty bound to abide by that result. We have insisted on this from the first and we have no opposition among decent minded stand-patters. If that phrase has not yet gone out of existence in its factional sense. But as we have already said the reports that any are unwilling to abide by that result has originated with a few correspondents who are interested in keeping up factionalism because it gives them something to write about and something to sell to their papers.

Rev. Dr. Salter's Birthday Anniversary. Burlington Gazette: Rev. Wm. Salter, D. D. since April, 1846, the beloved pastor of the Congregational church of this city, celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday yesterday at his comfortable home on South Hill. Dr. Salter has been most appropriately called "Iowa's first private citizen." From one boundary of the state to other, he is recognized as a pre-eminent force for the welfare of the commonwealth and its people. He has lived in Iowa during its entire statehood and his years have been crowded with good deeds in its behalf. Here in Burlington where Dr. Salter is best known and loved by all his birthday excites more than passing interest. It is a day of thanksgiving and appreciation of a grand good man.

Iowa Dailies the Best. Marion Register: One reason why an Iowa daily is better than the dailies of the big cities is that they are edited in the sanctum by the editor while the B. C. papers have a live wire connecting the counting room with the desk at which the hired man does his stunt as copy maker.

Old Timers' Greeting. Washington Democrat: A couple of old timers met the other day and one said to the other, "Why you know me, don't you? I didn't think you would." The other replied, "Know you, why I guess I do. I would know your hide in a tan yard."

A Forecast. Ottumwa Courier: Just a week or two more and the do-your-shopping-early editorials will begin to make their appearance. And then it will only be a step or two until the nagging for a rainy Fourth of July begins.

Burrell on Oberlin and Other Things.

Howard A. Burrell in Washington (Iowa) Press: I was born fifty years too soon, a sort of premature birth. I knew Oberlin as an ugly clay mud hole, not a pretty building in it, not a bit of taste, not a lawn or flower-bed in the village; nothing but unattractive saints, cranks, zealots, fanatics, negroes and alleged piety and revivals on the half shell. They wouldn't use tea, coffee, cotton goods, because these were grown by slave labor. It was as dreary a hole and as uninteresting a community as the sun ever shone on, in 1848, and even in 1859 and on through the war. Luckily, all that horrid thing has been swept down the time-stream, and there has been a fine renaissance after those dark ages. Oberlin is now the prettiest village I know, a very beautiful place indeed, the houses and grounds lovely, streets paved, and arched with elms and hard maples as fine as those in New England, the public buildings ornate, good taste and a realizing sense of beauty are evident everywhere. Some 2,000 students, who dress better, but are not otherwise handsomer than those in Old Lang Syne, and a larger percent of them are spectators. The college was started in 1833, the ground cut out of the forest in Russia township when all was as wild as the steppes in Russia, and for years the school was as poor and despised as church mice, but a few years since money began to flow into Oberlin from men of the world who saw the college was plucky enough to endure, and from alumni grown rich. There are eight elaborate and costly edifices and several halls and dormitories, all of them built from funds donated. For the new library Carnegie gave \$150,000 without conditions, and Norton G. Finney put \$100,000 into a beautiful memorial chapel in honor of his father, once president of the college and an evangelist of a power like Paul's, a man of remarkable genius, but an unwise college man. For he must have a red hot revival stewing all the while, and how, in such conditions, have the requisite academic calm? His practice of introspection and heart-searching was the infernal thing possible in spiritual culture. Nort made his fortune as president of the Wisconsin Central railroad, and though a thorough man of the world, he had the filial piety to erect this delightful structure to keep his father in mind. I heard Booker Washington tell his story in there. Here, every noon, save on Sunday and Monday, the students gather, though not by compulsion, as in my day, to say prayers. The splendid conservatory of music, where Nora Curran studies and sings, and one vast wing of a gymnasium, were given by Dr. and Mrs. Warner, of New York city. They are alumni. While he gave pills and powders, and thus did harm, she made corsets by hand at first, and soon corsets beat pills to a frazzle. They have a great factory and are as rich as cream, and those two fine buildings are proofs that thousands of women and girls went in lemons and got squeezed. If each one of them had had her proper young man, she need not have gone to all that trouble to be hugged. It is questionable if the Warners have not done infinitely more hurt, harnessing female diaphragms in whalebone and steel and giving womankind floating kidney, prolapsed stomachs and thins, and mislabeled livers and compressed intestines than they have done good by these gifts. For tight lacing is stupid and wicked; it affects the heart, and in old novels the lovely heroines were eternally fainting away on the least provocation, due to squeezing. Must have corsets, eh, to hold you up and together? Why do not you of the sex by exercise train the muscles of back and abdomen to keep you up? It is a shame, a confession and plea like that. Women ought to be as able as men to go erect without the crutches of such absurd coat-of-mail. I don't approve the business of the Warners and their omney put into these two buildings is "talented," if ever money was. However, Oberlin has a conservatory of music that ranks with the three great musical centers in this country, namely, Boston, Cincinnati and Chicago.

Pumpkin Pie. Fremont Tribune: The pumpkin pie is receiving its annual meed of praise at the hands of the word painters. The pumpkin pie is like other folks, it all depends. If the crust is tough and soaked; if the uphoistering is compiled in haphazard fashion, sans spice, sans milk but not sans lumps, the pumpkin pie is unworthy to be embalmed in song or story. But if it be erected according to approved plans and specifications, with a good thick layer of pumpkinized dope spread upon a flaky crust—oh my countrymen, stand aside and let the pie be passed, please.

A New Missouri Persimmon. Sioux City Tribune: Missouri is coming into her own. One of her citizens, emulating Luther Burbank, has deserved a monument to his memory by improving the Missouri persimmon. He has enlarged it, increased the relative quantity of delicious pulp while decreasing the number of seeds, and eliminating some of its puckering qualities when green, and all this without impairing its nutritive value.

Dr. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. Made from healthful grape cream of tartar. Will make twice as much good bread, biscuit and cake, pound for pound, as the low priced imitations made from alum and alum phosphates, and will make the food appetizing and healthful. Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder is not only economical but makes the food more wholesome.

Missouri should go Republican again in 1912, who can say that the generous folks would not lead another Burbank to develop her famous paw-paw and thus free us from the exactions of the banana trust? It's worth Missouri's while to ponder this. A Large Opportunity. New York Sun: The effects of well meaning men to induce Mr. Bryan to become a revivalist continue. Whether successful or not, some other man must be found to revive the Democratic party.

No Comparison. Chicago Record-Herald: With the returns practically complete, a whole lot of folks can not see anything in Friday, the 13th, that can approach comparison with Tuesday, the 2d. What He Sang. He picked up a rose on the ball room floor— Did the waggish country drummer, And, kissing it, sighed and softly sang, "Tis the last rose of some her!" —Young's Magazine.

Recklessness Personified. Washington Democrat: A young so-called sport went into a candy store and said, "I am a regular candy fiend. Give me a nickel's worth of sour drops." Wasn't he a reckless cuss?

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