

THE JOURNAL

LUCIAN SWIFT, J. S. McLAIN, MANAGER, EDITOR

THE JOURNAL is published every evening, except Sunday, at 47-49 Fourth Street South, Journal Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

C. J. Hillison, Manager Eastern Advertising. NEW YORK OFFICE—86, 87, 88 Tribune Building. CHICAGO OFFICE—308 Stock Exchange Building.

SUBSCRIPTION TERMS Payable to The Journal Printing Co. Delivered by Mail. One copy, one month, \$0.35. One copy, three months, 1.00. One copy, six months, 2.00. One copy, one year, 4.00. Saturday Eve. edition, 20 pages, 1.50. Delivered by Carrier. One copy, one week, 8 cents. One copy, one month, 25 cents. Single copy, 2 cents.

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CONTINUED All papers are continued until an explicit order is received for discontinuance, and until all arrearages are paid.

COMPLAINTS Subscribers will please notify the office in every case that their paper is not delivered promptly or the collections not properly made.

The Journal is on sale at the newsstands of the following cities: Pittsburgh, Pa.—Duquesne. Salt Lake City, Utah—The Knutsford. Omaha, Neb.—Paxton Hotel. Los Angeles, Cal.—Hotel Van Nuys. San Francisco, Cal.—Palace Hotel. Denver, Colo.—Brown's Palace Hotel. St. Louis, Mo.—Planters' Hotel, Southern Hotel. Kansas City, Mo.—Coates House. Boston, Mass.—Young's Hotel, United States, Tourist. Cleveland, Ohio—Hollenden House, Weddell House. Cincinnati, Ohio—Grand Hotel. Detroit, Mich.—Russell Hotel, Cadillac. Washington, D. C.—Arlington, Hotel, Raleigh. Chicago, Ill.—Auditorium Annex, Murray Northen. New York City—Imperial, Holland, Grand Hill, Waldorf.

LOYAL TO EVANS

The loyalty and firmness with which Mr. Evans' forces stay by him, both his home delegation and his outside supporters, the failure to break them up in spite of assaults from all quarters, including quarters from which no assaults ought to be expected, commands admiration, and is having a strong tendency to discredit the persistent effort to make it appear that his support is not to be depended upon. The fact is beginning to appear, too, that party service, and a record for having fought the battles of the party unselfishly for years, is worth something among fair-minded men when coupled with ability and honesty. Nobody as yet has had a word to say against "Bob" Evans from either standpoint, and the attack cannot be made successfully upon that side. He still remains the leading candidate, ready for a caucus, anxious to submit his claims along with those of other candidates and have this business of electing a senator disposed of at an early date and gotten out of the way of the regular business of the session.

In this position he should be supported by every member of the legislature. Assuming that attitude Mr. Evans takes his own case to the decision of the members of the legislature whenever they are ready to pass upon it.

It would be a splendid thing for the state of Minnesota, and the best thing that could happen to the party of this state to dispose of this senatorial question upon the basis upon which Mr. Evans has made his campaign.

Governor Lind in his message yesterday enumerated his well-known views as to the settlement of labor troubles by compulsory arbitration. The governor believes that this could be legally accomplished by the incorporation of labor organizations under a new statute which would give them a legal standing in court. The appeal to the court of arbitration could then, he thinks, be made by either aggrieved party and the dictum of the court could be enforced. The plan, while no doubt open to criticism, is interesting and worthy of careful consideration. Eminent jurists, however, have expressed serious doubts whether compulsory arbitration can ever be accomplished in a legal and constitutional manner. It is at least a knotty problem for the lawmakers.

GOVERNOR LIND AND THE ORE-CARRYING ROADS

There is one feature of Governor Lind's farewell message to the legislature yesterday which will meet with general approval and that is what he has to say about the attempts of the ore-carrying roads to throttle Minnesota's iron mining industry and by the maintenance of unreasonably high rates prevent the mining and shipping of ore by anyone except the owners of the roads. The plan adopted by the ore-carrying roads has been very simple and effective. They are owned by the same men who own a large share of the mines. When the roads, therefore, put an enormous rate on the ore-carrying business these capitalists lose no money—they simply take it out of one pocket and put it in another. But the independent producer is put at an immense disadvantage. He is forced to pay so high a rate to the railroads that he cannot afford to mine in competition with the owners of the roads. In this way all competition is ruthlessly crushed and one of Minnesota's great industries is bound hand and foot and laid at the feet of monopoly.

The governor points out that these roads to escape from an inquiry into their methods by the state railroad commission have withdrawn their rates on 90 per cent of their business and in effect suspended business as common carriers. This he characterizes as the first overt act of anarchy ever attempted in the state and declares that it calls for action by the attorney general of the state looking to the forfeiture of the charters granted to these roads. The Duluth & Iron Range in particular, he points out, has received a grant from the state of more than 600,000 acres of land and has duties to the public to perform. An instrumentally created by the law for the sole purpose of serving the public refuses to discharge its functions and, in the governor's opinion, its charter should be taken away.

There can be no doubt that drastic methods should be used to bring these

haughty corporations to a realizing sense of their duties and Governor Lind's bold words will find approval everywhere.

Among other things Governor Lind said this to the legislature yesterday: "Society abolished the wager of battle, it abolished duelling, it has made all resort to physical conflict for the settlement of private rights illegal. It says to all contending parties: 'Society will afford you opportunity to submit your differences to an umpire. Take his judgment, abide by his decision and keep the peace.'"

Then he went and swatted Harry Black.

GOVERNOR VAN SANT'S INAUGURAL MESSAGE

The message which Governor Van Sant sent to the legislature yesterday is just such a plain, business-like document as would be expected from the plain, unassuming business man who has been elected by the people of the state to the highest office in their gift. It takes up the various departments of the state's business and discusses their needs in direct and unadorned language with more attention to common sense than to rhetoric. For instance, taking up the pressing problem as to means whereby the burden of taxation may be more equally distributed as between the rich and the poor, the governor points out the necessity for prudent legislation in this direction, adverts to the tendency in modern tax legislation toward lifting the burden almost entirely from real and personal property and putting it upon the corporate owners of valuable franchises and concludes with an indorsement of State Auditor Dunn's recommendation for the appointment of a tax commission to revise the entire system of state taxation.

Passing to the cognate problem of the reduction of the state's expenditures, the governor points out the desirability of keeping a close hand on the outgo of the people's money and recommends the centering of this authority in the hands of a single board of control which can buy supplies in the best market and cut off the innumerable small leaks in the state treasury made inevitable under the present unbusiness-like and diffuse system. This is an eminently wise and desirable reform which has already been successfully tried in other states and which has been brought to public attention here by State Auditor Dunn.

In the matter of the gross earnings tax, the governor points out the necessity for adjusting it so that the railroad and other corporations shall pay their just share of the taxes.

The governor's declarations in favor of an eight-hour day on all public works, for the pushing of the good roads movement, for the conservation of our forests and for the unifying of the educational system of the state under a single board, will all commend themselves to the public. So, too, will his pronouncement in favor of a conservative extension of the primary election law plan to the entire state. The governor says truly that the primary election law has come to stay and that although some defects are discernible in the Hennepin county experiment, they will be remedied and the law become as universal of application as the Australian ballot system, at first used only in cities, has now become.

Altogether, the message is a very satisfactory document, characterized by conservative good sense and an evident desire for the advancement of the state along well considered lines of progress.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

On Monday next the presidential electors chosen in November will meet at the capitals of their respective states and proceed to elect a president of the United States, or rather to take the second step toward electing a president. On Feb. 13, before a joint session of house and senate, the presiding officer of the senate will, with the aid of four tellers, take from the boxes in front of him the envelopes containing the returns sent by the electors of each state and announce the vote when the tellers complete the count. This is the consummation of the process of electing a president and a vice president of the United States. It gives legality to the choice of the people.

But this is not what the makers of the federal constitution contemplated as the mode of electing a president. The electors of to-day cast their votes for candidates of their respective parties. It is deemed a burning disgrace for an elector to vote for any other candidates. In number 68 of the Federalist, in which Alexander Hamilton considers the constitution in relation to the mode of appointment of the president, his idea of the electoral college was to safeguard the election of a president by committing that duty to men chosen by the people for that special purpose, who were "most capable of analyzing the qualities adapted to the station, and acting under circumstances favorable to deliberation, and to a judicious combination of all the reasons and inducements that were proper to govern their choice." He thought an intermediate body of electors would preclude partisan convulsions and violent movements and prevent intrigue and corruption. To the electoral college, according to this exegesis of the constitution, was committed the power of electing a president, or, as Hamilton expressed it, "to vote for some fit person as president."

In practice this purpose has never been carried out. The electors are bound to cast their votes for the choice of their respective parties. It may be readily recalled that this plan did not save us from the convulsion of 1877, when the electoral college was displaced by the extraordinary body, the electoral commission, which probably prevented another civil war. That was, indeed, a notable instance of the value of compromise and mutual concessions and arbitration, for the electoral commission was an arbitration board to whose determination both parties agreed to submit.

The project to elect the president by the popular vote without the intervention of the electoral college is apparently growing in favor, its advocates pointing to the fact that, not infrequently, a presidential candidate is elected by the electoral college who does not receive a majority of the popular vote. According to the theory of a republican form of government the direct popular vote is a cardinal point in the system, as final determination of the public choice. Long usage of the indirect system, however, has made it improbable that the direct vote system will displace it very soon.

Governor Van Sant showed yesterday that when the situation requires quick action he will be found ready. There may be some difference of opinion as to the propriety of the retiring governor's reference to close elections and the law governing election contests, but we have not discovered any difference of opinion as to the

reply of the governor-elect. Governor Van Sant met whatever insinuation or slur may have been intended, or not, in Mr. Lind's remarks by such a prompt and complete answer to the implied challenge as to excite the admiration of his audience. In other words, Governor Van Sant, while believing firmly in the honesty of his title to his seat, and being prepared to defend it, was not to be outdone in any movements or proposals for the adoption of the fullest, completest and easiest means of settling any contests of this kind that might exist now or might arise hereafter. His reply showed at once that S. R. Van Sant has control of the ball.

A CURIOUS ALLIANCE DISSOLVED

A Berlin cable conveys what appears to be more than a rumor to the effect that the rather absurd Franco-Russian alliance has been dissolved, the alleged cause being the refusal of French capitalists to lend the Russian government a large amount of money.

This alliance, over which the French people have gushed so extraordinarily for some years, was entered into by Russia for the purpose, chiefly, of securing funds from France. The czar has been sharply rebuffed and pulled out, striking a blow at French sensibilities by championing the imperial party in France in the person of Louis Bonaparte, Ploplon's son, who is a general in the Russian army. Victor Bonaparte is the real Bonapartist pretender, but he is said to have become rather indifferent to the Bonapartist cause. Besides these pretenders, it seems that the Empress Eugenie has brought out the son of the hapless Lulu, her son who was killed fighting in the British army with the Zulus in South Africa. This youth is the child of Prince Louis and an English woman, with whom the prince became acquainted in London and whom he married, thereby giving deep offense to his mother and the Bonapartist leaders. The empress, however, gave Charlotte Watson, the wife of Lulu, a pension and took the child and had him brought up in a Roman Catholic seminary. He is now designated "Napoleon V."

As there is little probability that either the czar's protegee, Victor, or Lulu's son will ever sit on a Bonapartist throne in France, it is immaterial what support the czar gives to Louis Bonaparte.

France has derived little benefit from the alliance with Russia. Russia has never lifted her diplomatic little finger to help France out of any scrape with Great Britain or other power, and has given France's passion for Herr Kruger a very cold shoulder. France and Russia can have no close understanding and united action, because they have no common principles of government and no objects in common. Russian statesmen know that, if France fights Germany, it would not pay Russia to support France as an ally. The gross inconsistency of French politics and the very doubtful solidity and effectiveness of the French army make France a very weak ally. Russian statesmen argue that if Russia helped France against Germany she would incur the lasting enmity of Germany, which would force her to keep her war establishment up to extravagant proportions. Russia with regard to law partnerships he may form later, both in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The rivalry for the office of surveyor general of logs in the Minneapolis district has become so keen that the governor may have to settle it by naming a gentleman not connected with the logging business, but in whose behalf many warm friends have done much to influence the governor in the last two days. The gentleman referred to is Judge Torrance, a deputy surveyor of the general of the national G. A. R. organization. Judge Torrance has a large number of friends who would be delighted to see him occupying so good an office.

Nothing can be plainer than the fact that the legislature cannot get down to work with all this scandalous rumormongering and its ability until this senatorial contest is settled. It is plainly the predominant subject for the legislative mind to consider. The bill for the election of the governor in itself the continual pressure applied to members by the friends of various candidates would bring it to the top. It is to be regretted that the press, in its eagerness to get news, matters of the greatest importance await and demand the careful and undivided attention of the legislature.

Representative Whitford of Hastings found time enough the other day to appear before the board of managers of the state fair and production of several rumors are spread with its ability until this senatorial contest is settled. It is plainly the predominant subject for the legislative mind to consider. The bill for the election of the governor in itself the continual pressure applied to members by the friends of various candidates would bring it to the top. It is to be regretted that the press, in its eagerness to get news, matters of the greatest importance await and demand the careful and undivided attention of the legislature.

Theodore A. Knappen.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

Frank Daniels begins his engagement at the Metropolitan to-night in "The Amec." The score of "The Amec" is pronounced by critics to be a masterpiece of comic opera. The production of several rumors are spread with its ability until this senatorial contest is settled. It is plainly the predominant subject for the legislative mind to consider. The bill for the election of the governor in itself the continual pressure applied to members by the friends of various candidates would bring it to the top. It is to be regretted that the press, in its eagerness to get news, matters of the greatest importance await and demand the careful and undivided attention of the legislature.

Eugene Blair, who will be seen at the Metropolitan Sunday night with her excellent company, has spared no expense upon her production of "The Lady of Quality." All new scenery has been erected for her personal supervision, and every detail required in Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel faithfully reproduced and in a number of places elaborated. The artist's taste is shown in the first act shows in detail the splendor of an ancient English country home. This is by no means the chief scene, as the scene garden in which the second act is given, is a dream of loveliness. The artist again shows his ability for effects in the paneled parlor scene of the third act.

Two large sized audiences witnessed the performance of "Le Voyage en Suisse" at the Bijou yesterday afternoon and evening. This very entertaining pantomime seems to have caught on in a decided manner. As the two model servants, Charles Guyer and Wm. Schrode are exceedingly funny and their clever acrobatic stunts earn no end of applause. Miss Alberta Cline is seen to good advantage as Eurhassa and Miss Nellie Day contributes a very interesting story. The comedy already mentioned is worthy of special mention. The specialties are numerous and varied and the performance as a whole most entertaining.

David Belasco's "The Heart of Maryland" is to be brought forward next week at the Bijou opera-house. This war drama will be greeted with a pleasurable welcome by playgoers already in the habit of going to the Bijou. No play of our time that has been here has won a more lasting regard or evoked a greater share to this city of love and war upon the occasion of its former performance. During the "Heart of Maryland" engagement the usual matinee will be given.

It Does Look That Way.

Mr. Bryan, Mr. Harnsworth and Mr. Pulitzer thoroughly enjoyed the act of blowing their own horns, but their skill in that line is nothing compared with the ability they show in working the newspapers of the country. Much of the success has been due to their sharp mouth shut. Many a good business proposition is talked to death, sometimes by a hint.

Mark Twain has given out an unflattering opinion of newspaper reporters. When people are told just how they look and act it usually makes them or their family nervous.

Pennsylvania has a chicken thief who uses chicken wire to get into the rooster who uncurs about two yards of row at 3 a. m.

A scientist named Metcalf figures that the brain has 60,000,000 cells. It has to have at least that many to remember all our neighbors' faults.

A quiet but resourceful candidate for senator is as tempting to legislators as the kitchen woman is to bachelors.

John Goodnow is in Washington shipping the president on the back and expecting on the White House floor.

New York Daily Letter.

BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL, No. 21 Park Row.

A Story About Laurier.

Jan. 10.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier of the dominion of Canada, is expected to visit this city again to attend, as the guest of honor, the banquet of the Bohemian club on Feb. 22. The invitation for the affair was extended to Sir Wilfrid at the Waldorf-Astoria on the occasion of his recent visit, and to Colonel McNaught, the premier's secretary, assurance that he would be pleased to attend and thought that he would be able to arrange his public duties to permit him to be here this morning.

In the executive chamber, in the presence of all the Boer leaders, the personality of General De Wet has seized most potently upon the British imagination, writes Douglas Story in the London Daily Mail. His daring coup, his sudden appearance, his ubiquity and his unflinching success, has appealed to the British love of sport, so that to-day De Wet occupies a place in the popular mind not far removed from that of Robin Hood and the more modern buccaners.

What is sport to the fox-hunting British is, however, deadly earnest to the Free State commandant general. De Wet, from the outset, has been a rabid anti-British. In the final days of negotiation, before the ultimatum was sent, he was omnipresent in Pretoria. Time after time the advocates of peace sought to sway the president, seeking to prevail with him against war. Always, De Wet was present—unbending, a stern opponent of conciliation.

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The Personality of General De Wet

foreigners who have so grievously retarded Louis Botha's movements have had no place in the flying columns of De Wet. A man of color, of high middle weight and middle height, De Wet is not more either in bearing or appearance, to attract attention. He wears a scrubby, short beard and a thick mustache. He is dressed in a plain, black coat and a pair of trousers. Nothing anywhere to denote the general, the man who for months has defied the cleverest generals, the swiftest troops of the British army.

But in his face is the stamp of invincible determination; the mouth slightly drooped at the corners, is carried tightly closed, and the strong square jaw is firmly set beneath the straggly beard. The high square forehead rises steeply from a pair of bushy eyebrows, beneath which the restless, all-seeing eyes gaze out to the distance. There is seldom a gleam in his eyes, but there is the gleam of a steady purpose, the cold resourcefulness of a man hunted by his fellows.

Always Alert. It is out of those eyes and others such as they that De Wet kept touch with his opponent's movements. De Wet, from those knops, looks down at the wide rolling plains in one of the folds of which the railway lies. All the farm folks are his friends.

Incident from a Kaffir hut, whose uncertain outline can just be discerned through the heat haze, a thin column of smoke rises. It is the signal of game in the neighborhood, a train has fallen to make the steep incline behind the second row of knops, as it usually is, a platoon of British troops is winding its way among the knops, or a platoon is pricking loosely across the plain.

Whatever De Wet and his men are ready, and three days later we read in England of another convict captured or an outpost waylaid.

How Aid is Obtained. When graver matters are afoot, De Wet can always call to his aid one or two additional contingents of his own men, and with the conjointed force, he fights a Sanna's Post or a Roadward.

If no other commando be available, he can count on most of the "surrendered" farmers of the district for assistance on a big day. Now, if ever, Great Britain is realizing the full meaning of fighting with long lines of communications, a determined enemy on his own ground, and the extraordinary power of a puny race may wield in its own territory against a strong and valiant enemy.

De Wet, as is now fairly well understood in this country, is a uneducated man, a peasant, a talker of taal, and a Boer in the true sense of the term. In the days when he had said a president and a war office, his dispatches were of the scantiest and of the least eloquent value.

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