

F. W. Meyers, Editor.

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**EDITORIAL.**

Now is the time for the farmer to "get back to earth." The average farmer has had a pretty good time this winter. Crops were good, prices were fair. He has had time to look up his investments in South Dakota and Kansas, pay his bills, do his chores and rest up. Now the hard work of the year begins in earnest. The spring promises to be an average one and the soil is in extra good condition. We are hoping for an increased yield of corn this year. We believe that if the farmers have taken to heart the lessons taught by Prof. Holden about seed corn, the yield will be increased.

Our farmers take dozens of agricultural papers and we sometimes wonder if they are read with discrimination and understanding. It must be that they offer many valuable suggestions and yet the mode and methods of farming seem to change but slowly. While the farmer does not meet with the local and individual competition that the merchant does, he must, at the same time compete with all the world. The price is fixed not alone by the crop in Iowa or in the United States, but by the production of the entire world. The problem for the farmer is to produce as much as he can, as cheaply as he can. At thirty cents a bushel, one farmer may be making ten cents a bushel while another farmer is losing money. Land values in his vicinity are not too high, but the day has passed when the farmer could get rich simply by earning a living and letting the rise in land value do the rest. The Iowa farmer of to-day who expects to earn a competence must earn it out of his production. There is no money in poor seed, or in second hand machinery. We trust that all the farmers of the county have made preparation for the spring work. That they have tested their seed, examined their machinery and set their house in order for the grand race to see who can raise the most corn on the fewest acres. While Iowa is a great corn producing state, the average yield is not nearly so large as it should be, or would be if our farmers took advantage of all that science and experiment have brought to their door. Let each farmer determine, that if God's sun shall shine and if God's rain shall fall, he will do his part toward increasing the production of Crawford county at least a bushel an acre. That alone would mean thousands of dollars added to the wealth of the county.

It seems to be no more difficult for the rich man to get into the Kingdom of Heaven than to establish himself in public esteem. It is a case of be D---d if you do and be U---d if you don't. If the rich man does not give to public enterprises he is denounced as a "tight-wad," if he does, there are always some to insist that he does it with ulterior motive. Our advice to our rich men is to remain rich and unpopular, there is more money in it and more independence. Nevertheless we believe that Denison has an excellent lot of capitalists and that they are not nearly so mean or so selfish as many would have us think. We do not believe there is in Denison a single man who went into the hotel or opera house projects with the idea that he would ultimately beat his fellows and make money at their expense. The truth is that the rich man usually values his money more highly than does the poor man, that is one reason why he is rich, and it was just as much of a sacrifice for them to put their money into public buildings as it was for the lesser subscribers. We feel that the rich men of Denison are to be congratulated upon their public spiritedness and that the man who abuses them is simply trying to kill the producer of the golden egg.

**THE GYMNASIUM IDEA.**

The more we think of Prof. Hurlbries suggestion concerning the use of the old opera house building for gymnasium purposes the better pleased we are with it. The man who has a good physical equipment has a tremendous advantage in the race of life. He is strong and fit for any emergency and he always has the capital of muscle to draw upon should other line of endeavor fail him. The truth is that all cannot live by their wits. Some must work with their hands as well as with their heads. Both kinds of employment are honorable.

The school that turns out clerks and statesmen only is a failure. The good mechanics who know their trade, are strong and healthy and industrious, are next to the farmers, the most independent people on earth today. They do not have to fear the future, for their wares are always in demand. The gymnasium is the complement to the manual training department. One is well nigh useless without the other. In the gymnasium is developed the strength, the energy which it is the business of the manual training department to make skillful and of value.

The school board should buy the Famliton property. Some day we will need it badly. The opera house building should be purchased and moved to the High School lots. \$2,500 would pay the whole bill. It would pay for the moving, for the building and for a suitable basement.

The basement of the new opera house should be fitted for a dance hall, it would cost more money to build the opera house with a fine high basement, but it would double the income and that is the point to be considered in the long run.

We have confidence that a solution will be worked out which will please the majority of the people and will be best for the city. We believe the men who have embarked in this enterprise have no other move than the betterment of the city and we offer these matters only as suggestions for their consideration.

**TELEPHONE AND THE MAILS.**

The postoffice officials have been forbidden to give any information concerning the mails over the telephone. It will be hard to refuse the request of some lady who on a rainy day inquires if there is a letter for her, so that she may save herself a trip uptown. But hereafter the information must be refused. In some ways it will be a hardship both for carriers and patrons on rural routes. Carriers are no longer permitted to call up patrons on the phone, either at the postoffice or along their routes for the purpose of giving information as to the mails or for the purpose of calling patrons to the boxes to meet them on their rounds. The ruling is made by the department and its enforcement insisted on for two reasons. Firstly it has been found that people have impersonated others over the phone for the purpose of obtaining information concerning the mail of others, and second because in the country where party lines are largely used, the information is given not only to the party for whom it is intended but to others.

Carriers are not permitted to request patrons to meet them in order to receipt for registered mail, because, within the half-mile limit it is the business of the carrier to make the delivery. He is paid for just that purpose and the farmer is not. While none of these irregularities which prompt the order have been found in this vicinity they have happened at other places and the ruling is a general one. It is to be hoped that patrons will take notice and will not subject the post-office clerks or the carriers to the unpleasant task of refusing information by telephone.

**A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE.**

Senator Bailey said in a recent speech, that his grand father fought in the Union Army while his father was a Confederate. He said that he was teaching his boy that his great grand father was wrong and his grand father was eternally right.

It is useless to argue with Senator Bailey, and it seems, unfortunately utterly useless to argue with any citizen of the Solid South "Them that are filthy, let them be filthy still" is good scripture. The South still believes both in human slavery and in State Rights. No logic but the cold steel of race war will ever convince them of their error.

There is no room for argument with men who make such utterance as that made by Senator Bailey or who agree with Thomas Nelson Page, who, in discussing the race question, makes it as his first proposition that

"the negro must be kept in subjection." It remains for us, however, to teach our children that the North was eternally right, that slavery in any form is a crime, that the United States is, and that the rebels of 1861, were both rebels and traitors. Nothing is to be gained by mining matters. Nothing is to be gained by trying to hunt a synonym for "spade."

There is no need for personal malice, no need for such divisive strife as shall injure any part of our country, at the same time there is no need of apology, no need to be afraid of the "bloody shirt," no need to stop teaching and preaching our adherence to the greatness of the Union, to the brotherhood of man, and to our belief that any form of slavery is an atrocious crime.

**POLITICAL POT BOILS.**

The most singular thing about the Presidential campaign which has already opened, is that no one seems to be taking any interest in the doings of democracy. There is no doubt but that here will be two candidates in the field and that one of them will be democratic, but who that candidate will be and on what platform he will run will be determined solely by what the republicans may do. If a man of the Roosevelt stripe is named by the republicans, the democrats will put up a conservative on a mild platform. If the conservatives win in the republican convention, democracy will name a radical on a radical platform. In other words, as a National party, democracy has lost all standing. There will be an opposition party and its name will be democrat. Beyond this fact of opposition, there is no National democratic party in the United States today.

Interest centers then in the action of the republican party. It has come to the parting of the ways. Things which were tolerated as a matter of course a few years ago are now discredited by the public conscience, and politics, at least for the present must run in a different mould. The question before the republicans is whether or not they will continue the many reforms the President has inaugurated or whether they will grow timid in well doing. We have strong faith in the public conscience when it is aroused but it is usually afflicted with somnolence of the most acute type. Roosevelt has been acting on the public like one of these intermittent alarm clocks. Nothing is more effective, and nothing more disagreeable at times, than the intermittent alarm clock. It calls one from sweet slumbers to the work of the day. It reminds one of duties and obligations, it brings up memories not all together pleasant. A fellow knows that he ought to get up and that he must get up, but my stars, how he does hate that alarm clock.

In much this way Theodore Roosevelt has made himself obnoxious to many. There is the element whose interests are affected, who are torn from rich dreams of plunder, there are the thieves who have been picking the public pocket undisturbed, and then there is the Great American Public, that gives its pillow another jab and wishes that some one would leave it alone and let it get its sleep out.

This is a homely illustration but it shows just the state of affairs today. The next two years will show whether the public will simply get out of bed, turn off the alarm and tumble back to bed again, or whether it will rouse itself and make ready for the duties of the day. There are so many phases to the President, so many sides to this many sided man, that it is not strange that every once in a while people see him in an unpleasant light. Nevertheless, the people know him to be thoroughly honest, thoroughly reliable and absolutely fearless. We would rather vote for him for President, than for any other man living and we believe it is his duty to accept re-nomination. At the same time we have not lost faith in the Almighty and we believe that some one will be raised up to carry on the good work, should Roosevelt lay it down. It is time to consult about other candidacies when the fact is thoroughly established that Roosevelt will not run. Should he be re-nominated he would get seventy-five percent of the votes of the northern states in spite of any \$5,000,000, corruption fund which Rockefeller and Harriman and Hearst might raise.

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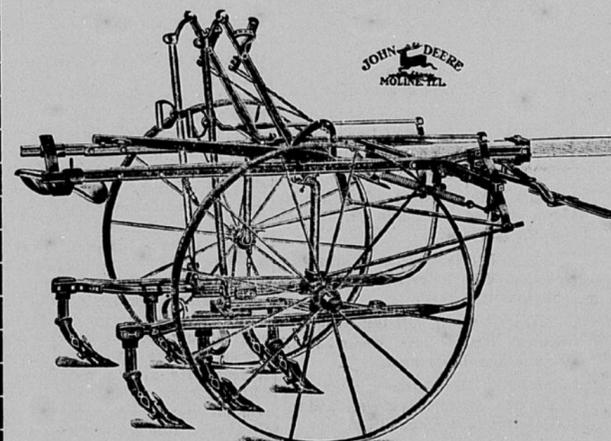
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