

The Advocate

AND TOPEKA TRIBUNE.

OFFICIAL STATE PAPER.

N. R. P. A.

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Mrs. Diggs is now recovering from a severe attack of sickness, which accounts for the lack of correspondence from her.

The Abilene Reflector wants to know what was decided by the four-cornered debate at Salina.—Kansas City Gazette.

It was decided that the people who listened to the debate were not afraid to hear more than one side of the questions under discussion; and that is a question that republicans do not dare to meet in many other parts of the state.

It is a condition not a theory, which confronts the democrats of Kansas.—Kansas City Gazette.

A condition and a theory both seem to confront the republicans of Kansas, and one of the problems of the situation seems to be the difficulty of making the theory conform to the condition. There is great liability of the miscarriage of the effort.

The most conservative democrat, the most hardened republican, the most conscienceless politician of any party, can, in these days of uncertainty, without the least exertion of will power, preach a political sermon or talk apprehensively upon the signs of the times in a manner that would have shocked his own timidity a year ago. Yet he is still a little afraid of the "visionary schemes" of his new party.

The State Journal seems to be troubled in spirit because the Advocate failed to publish Governor Robinson's letter to the Lawrence Journal immediately on its first appearance. We would remind the Journal that the Advocate is, unfortunately, only a weekly paper, and it cannot publish everything that appears in all the republican dailies of the state. If the Journal will examine our present issue, however, it will probably discover that we have paid our compliments to the governor's letter.

NEXT YEAR'S ISSUES.

The Abilene Reflector, of December 28, in a leading editorial objects to the declaration of the Salina Republican that "the political issues of next year will be railroad legislation and the relief of the supreme court." The Reflector thinks the issue will be "the completion of the job of purging Kansas of socialistic nonsense" and determining "whether Kansas shall be known as the endorser of rotten money and crank government."

Now, as the Reflector comes to our table this week for the first time with a request to exchange, and as we have been endeavoring for some time without success to induce our republican exchanges to take up and discuss the real issues that are actually before the people, we propose to try the Reflector at the very beginning of our new relations and see if it is willing to meet us upon any fairer basis than other republican papers have done.

We presume the Reflector will agree with us at the outset that the object of all political parties when they go into a political campaign is success. To achieve success, every party needs votes. To gain votes from an opposite party it is necessary to convince men of the error of their present convictions and the correctness of the doctrines of the party they are asked to support, and we would remind the Reflector that this cannot be done by first denouncing them as "cranks" and their ideas as "socialist nonsense." They may be cranks and their ideas may be nonsense, but the best way to convince them of it is not to begin in that way.

We desire to propound certain questions to our new friend to which we solicit fair and candid answers. (1) Fiat money is declared to be "rotten money." Will the Reflector point out to us a species of money now in circulation that is not fiat money? Will it go further and tell us where money comes from, by what authority it is made, and what are the constitutional limitations concerning the substances of which it shall be composed? (2) The Reflector talks about "socialist nonsense" Will it be kind enough to lay before its readers, and in doing so inform us, just what it understands this "socialist nonsense" to be? The specifications in the editorial under consideration are not sufficiently explicit. If certain issues are to be discussed they should be first clearly defined. Let us know what doctrines we advocate that are objectionable, and if we cannot successfully defend them we will abandon them and join you in the advocacy of something better if you have it to present. Isn't this fair? (3) We are confronted to-day with the most anomalous condition that could possibly be conceived. On the one hand is an abundance of food products for which there is no market. On the other hand we see thousands of people starving and unable to buy these very things which they so much need, because through enforced idleness they cannot procure the means for the purchase. Manufactories are

everywhere either shut down or running on short time with reduced forces because there is an insufficient demand for their products to enable them to do otherwise. At the same time farmers and others who need these manufactured goods are unable to buy them because they cannot sell their own products. We say that there is something wrong, and we have proposed a remedy for it. You say our remedy is nonsense. What is your remedy? If it is better than the one we propose, we are ready to accept it.

The difficulty has been, since this People's party movement started, to get any republican paper or speaker to mention these questions, except to ridicule them. We have been denounced as cranks and demagogues from the first, and this has been the kind of campaign that has been conducted against us, and all the while the "cranks" have kept on increasing. Do you propose to continue this method, or will you get down to business and discuss fairly and honorably the specific questions of difference between our parties? We offer you the opportunity now to begin fair work. Will you accept it?

MRS. LEASE'S REMOVAL.

On Thursday, December 28, Governor Lewelling sent Mrs. Lease a notice of her removal from the board of charities, a copy of which notice is published in this issue.

Of course this action of the governor created a great furor, especially among representatives of the press who are always on the alert for anything that is sensational; and especially when the sensation relates to the People's party. The governor states his reasons for this step in his letter, and from what is known of the antagonisms in the board, it is doubtful if harmony could ever have been secured without a change of some kind.

Of course, Mrs. Lease feels indignant, and has submitted to various interviews by interested newspaper correspondents in which she indulges freely in charges of corruption against the administration.

It is not now the purpose of the Advocate to take up the questions of dispute upon either side. We give the information which our readers are entitled to and withhold our opinions which belong to us for the present. There is one thing, however, which we desire to say at this time. Mrs. Lease makes some very grave charges against the administration. They are all, however, general in their character and unsupported by evidence. If she knows the charges to be true it is her duty to make them specific and back them up by such evidence as she possesses. When she does this, she will find all honest members of the People's party ready to condemn the corruption as much as she can do. She must know, however, that these general charges unsupported by evidence are liable to be interpreted as a result of bitterness prompted by her removal. Further than this we have no opinion to express at present. If there is cor-

ruption in the administration every honest member of the party wants to know it. Let the charges, therefore, be specific and backed by the testimony, or they can carry with them no weight before a jury of the people.

TRAMPS NOT RUSHING TO KANSAS.

After all the alush published by republican editors upon the subject of the "tramp circular," so called, and the doleful tales of tribulation to Kansas from the invasion of the state by hordes of worthless vagabonds from every part of the country, the said vagabonds have failed to materialize, and the Kansas City Star of December 22, publishes this testimony upon the subject:

A railroad man said this morning: "These fellows are going south in swarms. They are rarely seen around the Union depot but get off the cars away out in the yards and take the first trains for the south. Some of them are shipped here by employment agencies at Omaha. They go up town and make arrangements with the first employment agency they find to go to work cutting ties in Arkansas or doing something else in Oklahoma and Texas. It doesn't cost much to ship men for work and they get their fare paid, but they don't work when they reach their destination. They pull out without delay for a still warmer climate. Governor Lewelling's letter has not increased this class of travel toward Kansas. They don't go that way because the climate is too cool. The idea that a well bred tramp who knows his business would stand out and shiver in the icy winds that will soon sweep across Kansas, just because the governor makes them welcome and tells the police not to arrest them and put them in a comfortable, well-warmed jail, is all nonsense. They don't go that way. They know too much about the world to make such a mistake.

The only testimony that has appeared in reference to the increase of the unemployed in Topeka was published in the republican papers of the city; and in that it was stated that several men had come here seeking employment after the publication of news that work would soon begin upon the Kaw river dam. And still the falsehood and the abuse go on.

A PLUTOCRACY IN FACT AND IN NAME.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch of December 24 has a London special of something over a column from which we clip the following:

The special correspondent of the London Chronicle, who has been sending a notable series of letters on the Chicago fair and American institutions, writes that in a recent interview with a New York editor that person "informed me quite seriously that, if he had the power, he would limit the suffrage entirely to the capitalist class, thus formally and definitely converting the republic into the plutocracy that it is fast practically becoming."

That this is the sentiment of the aristocratic element of the east there is no manner of doubt; and if the people generally continue to vote these elements into power, they will have no reason to complain if the program here indicated is carried out.

The impression prevails that if Messrs. Cleveland and Harrison could be induced to go and take charge of Hawaii, they could make the island a success. And surely the United States would not be loser by this arrangement.