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SOME LEGISLATIVE CRITICISM.

The Lidgerwood Broadaxe is particularly severe upon the recent legislature and uses President Roosevelt's "short and ugly" word to characterize the members, all of which would indicate that the Broadaxe had an especially severe attack of jaundice with relation to things in general and the legislature in particular. The Broadaxe arraigns the legislature for not having passed the bank deposit guaranty bill, the initiative and referendum, and the bill providing for physical valuation of railroads, all of which measures were defeated in the house, and it surely cannot be said that the house was stalwart in its factionalism. Nevertheless, the Tribune believes the house pretty nearly represented the sentiment of the republican party in the state in disposing of these three propositions as it did. Physical valuation of railroads is no small task, and will require no small amount of money. The accurate valuation of property worth \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 will require much time and plenty of money, the services of experts, the establishment of an expensive bureau to take charge of the work, and when completed might not accord with the valuations established by the interstate commerce commission, or by some other state. In the making of rates, for which purpose alone physical valuation is intended, it might be that conditions would so change before the valuation of the roads were completed that the time and money would have been expended without result. Physical valuation, when undertaken, should be undertaken with reference to an entire line of railroad, and by a board of appraisers skilled in the work and operating under the direction of some central body, such as the interstate commerce commission. The valuation would then, at least, have the weight of skilled authority, and would be uniform. As to bank deposit guaranty, we believe that subject is pretty well disposed of, and the demand for it seemed to end with the national campaign. The solution of the matter of safety in banks lies at the root and not in the branches. Proper supervision and right examination and regulation of banking methods will do away with the necessity for deposit insurance. We believe it is a safe assertion that if the banking laws of the state and of the federal government are observed and ordinary prudence and care exercised in the conduct of bank business, no bank can fail to pay its depositors in full, even though temporary conditions might force a suspension of business. The banks that fail and whose depositors are defrauded are such banks as are speculatively run, dishonestly conducted and unlawfully managed, such as a bank in this state, one of whose chief officers recently disappeared after using the funds of the institution to his own purposes. It would hardly have been fair in that case to force honest bankers to pay for the speculations and thefts of the banking official in question. We do not believe that proposition needs argument. As to initiative and referendum, it is by no means certain that direct legislation and reference of laws would be a panacea. When we have two or three constitutional amendments, we find that the interest in the election of officers so overshadows the other questions that the vote on the amendments is considerably below the total vote of the state. What might and probably would be the result if there were fifteen or twenty matters of legislation, involving complicated propositions of law, put before the voter on a busy

election day for his consideration? We believe it far better that a legislature of representative men sit in deliberation upon proposed legislation during sixty days than that a mass of propositions be put before the voters to be considered and passed upon in a few brief minutes. The legislature exercised its right to dispose of these matters as seemed best to the members, and it is not fair to assume that the members were not acting entirely honestly and within their proper sphere when they chose to pass none of the laws in question. We believe that the more attention the people of this state pay to the development of their state, to improved methods of agriculture, to the investment of money in new enterprises and the enlistment of new capital, and the less they devote to highly experimental legislation, the more sound and material will be the growth of the state in the next decade.

HIGH IDEALS AND PRACTICAL RESULTS.

As the Tribune has heretofore said, the millennium in municipal government must not be expected under the commission system that will be inaugurated in Bismarck at an election to be held some time next month. But we may reasonably expect an improvement in governmental affairs, of the provisions of the law are carried out—even at the hands of the same men who have been placed in charge of the city's affairs in the past. This is possible and probable because the new system is better. Under the commission law all ward boundaries are wiped out and the president and four commissioners are elected at large. Each is under bonds. Each has charge of a department and committees and shifting of responsibility are done away with. Weekly meetings are compulsory, and the commissioners who fall to take an interest in the city's affairs and attend the meetings must resign and make room for others who feel and accept the responsibilities.

One of the excellent features of the new form of government is the fact that every two years the people will have but two members of the commission to elect without any other issue to distract the attention of the voter. At that time, should the commissioners be again candidates, their records will be as an open book, and it will be for the people to decide whether the men have done their duty. The confusion consequent upon the election of a mayor, aldermen, treasurer and other city officers, as under the old plan, is now eliminated, and the question will be solely upon the record or fitness of but two candidates for commissioner, and every fourth year a candidate for president of the commission will also be voted for.

It is presumed that those who have opposed the system will attempt to discredit it, or do those things calculated to harass and discourage those who attempt in good faith to bring about a better state of affairs in city government.

Some sincere but impractical citizens may place the standard of the commission too high. To have high ideals is a good trait, but we have many elements and many political, social and business jealousies and conflicting interests to contend with. We cannot elect the five best men in the city for these positions, but we can and ought to select five good men. The vicious and lawless element usually succeed best when the so-called silk stocking, or better element, asserts its independence—that is, scatter their votes among candidates simply because they are good men, regardless of their popularity or vote getting qualities. It is well and urgent that we select good men, but better that we have a majority than run the risk of losing all. This is a lesson that is hard to learn, but practical citizens who have watched events know how important it is that we do not place the standard beyond our ability to succeed. Nor does the so called "leading business man" necessarily make the best official. It often happens that business interests and business jealousies destroy the usefulness of an otherwise most successful citizen. Under the new commission system much time must be devoted to the duties. Especially is this true of the president of the commission, who is voted for specially. An ideal candidate is one who possesses qualifications—first, the time to attend to the business; second, honesty of purpose, experience in public affairs, acquaintance with conditions existing in this city, and, third, diplomacy enough to keep the four departments—the four commissioners—in harmony and in earnest for the best interests of a Greater Bismarck.

"The art of living" in this city is not fully known except to answer-

ON THE RETURN OF A PRODIGAL. Back to news and presses, back to type and printer's ink. Back to beats that jolt you, and to things that make you think; Back to nights of hurry, back where midnight lunches lurk, Back to lights and worry and the blessedness of work. Back to clink and clatter of the deftly moving keys, Back to strife's keen glory and the pipe's comforting wheeze. Back to sit with good old chums and wait the break of day. Back to where I should be, Lord, how long I've been astray! Back to waste and litter—to the basket heaping high, Back to sweet and bitter, where the sheets of copy fly. Back to gask and pencil, to the paste pot and the shears, Back where come a-clinking all the tales of joy and tears. Back where life is earnest, where it's save himself who can, Back where merit conquers, and a man can be a man; Back to the nights made glorious by something done today, Back to hope and struggle—Lord, how long I've been astray! Back to be myself again, to do because I would, Back to send my stuff along and hear 'em call it good; Back to peep with hopeful heart into the Home of Rhymes, Back to hope there's something in my corner of The Times. Back to dream it does some good to some awaiting soul, Back to feel I'm free again, and clean, and new and whole. Back to scatter sun and shine along my humble way, Back to work and hope and dream—How long I've been astray! J. W. FOLEY, in New York Times.

NORTH DAKOTA NOTES

Harvey is among the late towns to open a new vaudeville theater.

The people of Napoleon are anxious to have the town incorporated.

The Great Northern may build a line, reaching from Berthold to Regina in Canada.

Te Minot Reporter chides Editor Smart of the Optic for being a candidate for alderman from the Seventh ward at Minot, when there are only six wards in the city.

Local business men at Minot are planning to construct a modern street railway system for the Magic City.

Arrangements are now in progress for establishing a factory for the manufacture of concrete blocks and roofing tile at Bowman.

A woman's club will be formed at Dickinson to co-operate with the teachers of that city for the purpose of study and culture.

There will be a considerable drilling for oil at Edgeley this summer. Editor Sherman of the Cando Herald.

The Golden Valley Telephone company has disposed of its majority of stock and will install a local system at Beach at once.

Editor Bryant of the Napoleon Homestead has received numerous requests to run a German page in his paper, but after watching the dismal failure of other papers attempting the enterprise Bryant has de-

clined he wants none of it for him.

Last week an old gentleman and his wife at Voltaire started for South Dakota, but on their way to the depot the man dropped dead, face downward, in a pool of water.

They generally do things right at Dickinson. Over on the south side in that town they have appointed the sausage vendor as official dog catcher.

The city council at Dickinson has voted to increase the city to six wards, and from now the council of that city will consist of twelve alderman.

Editor Faytle of the McHenry Free Press has recently taken on a partner in the person of P. G. Jenkins, who will act as manager of the paper.

The Cando Herald thinks that the people of Mandan expect that town will be dryer than ever this summer now that three water wagons will be used to sprinkle the streets.

If the town of Sherwood has nothing else this summer, it intends to have a good band. A director has been secured from Chicago and a committee is raising funds to pay his salary.

The Anamosse Progress has been sold to G. A. Ebbert, an enterprising business man of that town, who proposes to make the paper one of the best in the state.

The Forbes Republican has completed the first year of its existence and Editor Nagel is enlarging his office building to take care of his increasing business.



JAMES WILSON, SECRETARY AGRICULTURE.

Hon. James Wilson, who has been a cabinet minister longer than any other living man, is expected to hold over for some time as secretary of agriculture in the new administration. Secretary Wilson will in a short time complete the longest service of any cabinet minister in the entire history of the republic. He is openly anxious to hold over long enough to make this record, and has been promised that he can achieve his ambition. Secretary Wilson entered on his present office away back in 1897, when the country was a part of the national government.

WASHINGTON'S WONDERFUL WIRELESS

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR SIX-HUNDRED FOOT TOWER AT NATION'S CAPITAL.

WIRELESS MESSAGES TO BE TRANSMITTED TO VESSELS 3,000 MILES AWAY.

MUST BE FREE FROM ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES AND ABSOLUTELY SECRET.

Washington, D. C., March 15.—The naval bureau of equipment has recommended to the secretary of the navy that the contract for the proposed new wireless outfit in this city be awarded to the National Electrical Signaling company of Pittsburgh, the lowest bidder. Its bid was \$182,600 for the construction of a 600-foot wireless tower and the installation of high-powered wireless instruments in it and in one or two vessels of the United States navy.

The Pittsburgh company submitted an alternative bid of 108,900 for the equipment of the tower and two ships in case the Washington monument should be used. That project, however, has been abandoned by the navy department, owing to objection to the use of the monument for such purpose.

Under the specifications, the station near Washington must be capable of transmitting messages at all times and at all seasons to a radius of 3,000 miles in any navigable direction from Washington, messages not to be interrupted by atmospheric or intentional or unintentional disturbances by neighboring stations. The station must also be capable of transmitting and receiving messages with entire secrecy.

The sets of instruments installed on the vessels must be capable of transmitting and receiving messages at all times, in all seasons and in all latitudes, to and from a distance of 1,000 miles, and be able to receive messages from the high-powered station in Washington at a distance of 3,000 miles at all times. Each vessel is also to have a wireless telephone apparatus with a communicating radius of 100 miles.

THE PARANOIAC.

Queer Delusions That Come With This Curious Mental Disease.

"That curious form of mental disease known as paranoia is seldom or ever cured," said a noted Chicago alienist.

"A paranoiac may be able to transact business with a fair degree of efficiency, but, as a rule, few of this class can be made to stick to work, as the nature of the malady prevents concentration of mind. One so possessed is afflicted with strange delusions, especially with the notion that he is being persecuted. Many an individual who is denominated a crank has paranoia. In general these unfortunates are misanthropic, have no social intercourse with their fellows and are brooding and introspective. Very often their mania leads them to the notion that they have been born to lead mankind in a religious way, and they proclaim themselves prophets of God. Quite often, too, they are discoverers of some wonderful invention that will astonish the world.

"It was a paranoiac who followed the great actress Mary Anderson from place to place, declaring himself her favored suitor and threatening to kill any man who sought her company. These threats were what led to the locking up of the demented creature, and I believe he finally shot one of the asylum attendants. Paranoiacs very frequently develop homicidal tendencies, and it is prudent to watch them at all times."—Baltimore American.

The Birds' Nests That Men Eat.

The swifts arrive in the Andaman Islands toward the end of November, but they take their time in building the nests, which are formed from a gelatinous secretion from the salivary glands of those beautiful members of the swallow tribe. If there has been a wet December, the first crop of nests is generally a poor one, being soiled by the damp and drippings from the roofs of the caves. Collectors, however, begin in January to go around the island to the different caves in an open boat. The best quality resemble pure isinglass and are worth their weight in silver. Afterward there are two other collections. The caves in which the nests are found are scattered about the islands. Some are far inland, others in rocks concealed in mangrove swamps.—London News.

Bogus Antiques.

Old statuary is made in great quantities in Italy, Bohemia and Belgium furnish glass of the middle ages, and every European capital has its makers of antiques. Berlin and Vienna makers are kept busy with the home trade, but Paris, London, Brussels, Rome, Florence, Smyrna and Munich are commercial centers for this class of merchandise. The business has grown to such proportions that Nuremberg, Vienna and Livorno have museums where counterfeit works are exhibited and where their style of manufacture may be studied.—Berlin Post.

CHINA'S GRAND CANAL

Sometimes It Holds Water Enough to Float the Boats.

Of some of the crude and outgrown methods used on China's Grand canal a writer in the North China Daily News remarks: "The junction of the real canal with the Wei river was not by means of a lock, but simply a high and steeply sloping mud bank, over which the grain vessels had to be dragged by the force of perhaps many hundreds of men. It should be borne in mind that in China the lock of a canal is not much more like our idea of what that name connotes than it is like a padlock. Amid constant and often serious changes of level, with an uncertain and not infrequently a scanty supply of water, and with a grain fleet which traveled in blocks of some eighty vessels under one officer, it was necessary to devise some way for keeping them together and for transferring them as a consolidated unit with this in view.

"For this reason a Chinese lock on the Grand canal is nothing but a stone gateway into which large boards may be lowered through a groove in the stones, restraining most of the water from its flow, until there is a depth sufficient to float all the craft, when the boards are pulled up and the entire fleet passes through.

"After this the boards are again lowered for another division of the grain boats. In case the water gives out—a by no means unlikely occurrence—there is nothing to do but to wait until more comes from somewhere."

THREE EMPIRES.

Governments That Practically Sprang Into Being Overnight.

Prior to Jan. 18, 1871, the German empire, as we know it today, had no existence. Instead it was a jumble of kingdoms, states, duchies, grand duchies and principalities, all joined together by a like language and common political aspirations. It is true, but otherwise quite separate and distinct.

Then came the historic ceremony in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. Paris had just been captured by King William of Prussia, and it was held to be a fitting time and place to proclaim him the first German emperor. Never since the dawn of history was an empire born more dramatically.

By a strange irony of fate, too, its birth took place amid the ruins of the French empire, itself the creation of a day, or, rather, to be strictly accurate, of a night. France went to bed on the evening of Dec. 1, 1851, a republic. When it awoke next morning it was an empire. During the hours of darkness Paris had been occupied by troops, and the prince-president had become Napoleon III.

Equally sudden and almost as sensational in its way was the birth of the modern Greek empire. After the yoke of the Turks had been thrown off in the war of independence the country became a republic. But the people soon tired of that democratic form of government and promptly proceeded to assassinate their first and only president. Then they met together, elected a king and settled themselves down to be ruled by him in a quite orderly and contented fashion.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Exploiting the Antique.

A gang of swindlers arrested by the Toulouse police had for stock in trade a beautiful antique cabinet and a considerable stock of audacity. With these they took, for a short lease, a historic chateau near Toulouse, installing a venerable old lady to play the part of owner. Then they found a collector of antiques, persuaded him to visit the chateau and sold him the really valuable cabinet at a good round price. After the bargain was concluded they invited the victim to lunch, and while he was eating the meal the real cabinet was replaced by a perfect imitation, which the victim carried off with him. The swindlers, before their arrest, succeeded in selling their cabinet thirty-three times, at prices varying from \$500 to \$3,000.

When Animals Are Ill.

Said a prominent veterinarian: "Animals when sick are the most helpless and appreciative of all creatures, and the way of administering relief and medicine in many instances is as novel as it is effective. The most savage and revengeful animals during spells of severe pain are, as a rule, as docile and tractable as a child. Relief must come from a human being, and come quickly, and they seem to know it. The most vicious horse when groaning with pain would allow a mere child to administer relief, and many of the wild animals when in sickness seem to forget their savage instincts."

The Grayhound.

Various explanations have been given of the origin of the term grayhound, some authors claiming that the prefix grey is taken from Graius, meaning Greek, others that it signified great, while still others say that it has reference to the color of the animal. In no other breed of hounds is the blue or gray color so prevalent, and consequently the last mentioned derivation seems the most plausible.—London Notes and Queries.

Thought He Knew.

Mrs. Gawjum—John, do you know what you said in your sleep last night? Mr. Gawjum—Oh, yes; I suppose I said, "Mark, for heaven's sake, let me get in a word edge-wise."—Chicago Tribune.

Strangely enough, it's when a man comes right to the point that he is considered blunt.—Philadelphia Record.