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ANENT BOARD OF CONTROL.

The recent publication in a Tipton paper of a very labored attack upon the board of control has called forth a statement from the Dubuque Times which is likely to cause misapprehension unless corrected. The Times in righteous indignation at the unreasonable attack of the other paper starts out with the statement that "the press of the Fifth district in particular has opened up what looks like an organized and premeditated campaign to wipe out the board of control." Now as the Times-Republican claims a fair representation among the journals of the Fifth district it wants to go on record as a zealous champion of the board of control and the system upon which it is organized. This paper has criticised the actions of the present members at times, that it will always do, for it is a long cherished privilege of a newspaper to criticize whoever and whatever it pleases, but it has never entered a complaint against the board of control plan and as matters now stand this paper is heartily in accord with the personnel of the board and most of all of their wants.

The article that caused the above remark appeared in the Clear Creek Republican, a small paper published in Tipton, and was evidently designed with a good deal of deliberation to boom a bill upon which that county's newly elected representative, Mr. T. H. Miller, expects to go on to everlasting fame, as it filled nearly four columns of fine type, a model effort for any country weekly to make. Both Mr. Miller and his friend the editor of the Republican are very estimable men but just why they should unite in such a mighty effort to attack the board of control is hard to understand unless this newly elected legislator in his laudable desire to "make a record" has been led to believe that opposition to the board of control is popular. Alas for him, he has made the greatest mistake of his life. For years this state groaned under the mismanagement and incompetency and even corruption of the old trustee system, and after a mighty struggle a republican legislature adopted a business like plan for managing our state institutions, a republican governor followed up the good work by appointing three of the best men in all Iowa to constitute a board to control and they in turn rewarded these good deeds with the most efficient and business like management these institutions ever had, saving to the state within two years nearly $100,000, so that the republican legislators and the people are not going to be very quick about returning to the old slip-shod trustee system.

The board has been given very large powers. We are glad of it. If it is going to do anything at all it ought to have a free hand. It has been blamed for every little disturbance. We are glad of that too. What the people want is a body which it can hold responsible for the public work entrusted to it. If anything goes wrong the board gets the blame as it should and if it needs any more authority the people should be glad to grant it. The people as a whole, the body politic, can't run these institutions, they can't make contracts for supplies and discharge superintendents. Some agency has to be provided to do this work and the more power it has, the more definitely have the people placed the responsibility and the more efficiently can the board perform its duties. There is likewise as little reason in objecting to the present method of appointment. Now the eyes of the whole people are on the governor in making the appointments. If he makes a mistake he suffers, ergo, he is mighty careful not to make any mistake.

The proposition put forward in the Tipton paper as Mr. Miller's substitute for the present board of control provides for a board of trustees to be composed of two or three members from each institution, a ponderous body of sixty or seventy members just about as efficient for business management and executive duties as would be the legislature itself. Such an institution would require just about thirty minutes at its first meeting to resolve itself into one of the grandest log rolling bees ever organized. The delegation from Anamosa would combine with the delegation from Cherokee to outvote the delegation from Mt. Pleasant in return for a similar favor against Ft. Madison next year, and we of the people would be compelled to sit still trying to realize that all was done for the best interests of the state institutions. It would be just about as sensible for the stockholders of a railroad to try to operate the train dispatcher's department by vote at annual or quarterly meetings. What we have now is a body of capable business men whose entire time is given up to the work of conducting the business management of these institutions. They are able men, honest men, and men who do things. Under the trustee system we sometimes had one of these qualities of management and sometimes we didn't.

After a pitiful tale of the dangers in giving such unlimited powers to the board of control this Tipton paper parades as a monstrous warning the "wants of the board" as follows:

"In addition to its vast powers and duties, conferred upon it by the original law, the board now asks that its powers be extended so as it can have control of and supervision over the county asylums for insane.

"The board asks for authority to transfer any cases it may consider bad' from the reform schools to the penitentiary, without any process of law whatever.

"The board asks to have its order backed up refusing to let the individual counties take care of their incurable insane.

"It demands that the old soldiers at the Soldiers' Home give up their pension to the state. It demands nearly everything in sight."

Just think of it! These are the wants of the board that are to bring us under a yoke of absolutism equal onto the days of Cromwell. But sad as it may seem, to the most of us these reforms all appear about right. The horrors of county care of insane have been exposed in these columns too often to need mention now. Some authority should be exercised over the county institutions—why not that of the board of control? The evils of no classification of criminals in prisons have long been recognized. Who are for this classifying if not the board? And the matter of pensions was decided in favor of the board over a year ago by the state G. A. R. organization itself.

In closing its grand argument against one of the best reforms ever accomplished in our state government and incidentally in favor of the ill-advised scheme of an ambitious legislator, the Republican says:

After considering the case at length we find it quite evident that something is wrong with the board of control law. It gives the board too much to do; it gives it too much power in appointing officers and making orders; it furnishes no incentive to secure the quality of service in all the departments of our state institutions, to economy; it furnishes the pretext for the discussion against home markets and the importations of labor; it would furnish an Alcazar with power enough to run the affairs of one such state.

It gives the board too much to do. They seem to have done well enough. It gives it too much power to do more so perhaps. It furnishes an incentive to shirk service to economy. Heretofore we have enjoyed the exactly but not the economy. It furnishes a pretext for discrimination. This is a valuable section and we presume it comes about because when the clear headed, stuff of John Cowles wants he is going to have the usual trade discount with the dealers, discount on top of it or the fellows can't even bid, the outside concerns get away down to rock bottom on their prices. Then, lastly, it would furnish an Alcazar with power enough from the state. So long as the board consists of three members, always accountable for responsibility costs, and so long as these members are appointed by a governor who must look to the people every two years for election, there will never be any danger of an Alcazar getting in his work on the Iowa board of control. No, the board is an ideal. It makes mistakes and gets blamed for them, but it is a business institution for business purposes and the worthy gentlemen in Cedar county will yet live to glory by opposing it.

THE DISCIPLINE OF WINTER.

Many bitter exclamations will be heard as we encounter the rigors of an Iowa winter. Plunging from a comparatively mild fall season, with its vistas of green, to the severities of mid-winter, with its blanket of white and fierce north wind, is calculated to test the philosophical spirit of all. Yet it is one of the necessary ingredients of Iowa climate; it is one of the things that are absolutely necessary to develop all the grand possibilities of an Iowa summer. It may have its hardships, yet it also has its pleasures. Its bracing air is a tonic, stimulating health and restoring vigor. Its fireside privileges are equal to any of the pleasures of summer. Its lamplight treats are not less delightful than those of the milder season. Its short days and cloudy skies at least lead to a better appreciation of their antipodes. There is nothing that so fully blunts appreciation as a surfeit. "What a beautiful day!" exclaimed a visitor in California to a resident as he, a stranger, took in all its delight. Without moving a muscle of his expressionless face the Californian carelessly replied, "Every day is a fine day." His appreciation of it was gone—surfeited.

Thus far this season Iowans have been favored. Next week the shortest day will come, mid-winter will be here and a hopeful outlook is promised.

POLITICS OF COURSE.

Upon Gov. Shaw, the republican legislature and party must rest the responsibility and the odium of this scandalous affair. The officers were of their appointment.—Marshalltown Reflector, Dem.

The Vinton Eagle, which has never been an admirer of the board of control law, takes the Reflector's paragraph up to show the Marshalltown organ's partisan bias. The Eagle says:

Our democratic friends are going to practice the same kind of politics on the board of control law they did on the prohibitory law. Before the law was passed we frequently heard of vast quantities of democratic prohibitionists and demand for a non-partisan election. After the law was passed the only thing you could hear was,—"Why don't you republicans enforce it."

Previous and up to the passage of the board of control law all the glory was claimed for Boies and the democratic party.

Now they have discovered (even though the board of control is non-partisan) that all mistakes in administering the law belongs to the republican party. The clipping above is from an extended article in the Reflector on the Mitchellville affair.

Why should it say Gov. Shaw? He has no authority over the board. Why should it say the republican legislature? Doesn't a democratic member of the legislature carry the same responsibility as a republican on any measure becoming a law for which he votes in the affirmative? The records show that on the board of control law it was endorsed by the democratic caucus and became a party measure. The records also show that it would not have passed the senate had it not been for democratic votes.

The record of experience also shows that the average democratic politician will assist in foisting legislation upon the state and then befoul his own record if it will accrue to the political advantage of his own party.

The Eagle was opposed to the board of control law from its very inception from the reason that it did not then, nor does it now, believe any three men in Iowa can administer the affairs of thirteen institutions with their multiplicity of duties and wants but it is ready to stand its share of responsibility so far as its party is concerned; nor is it going to try and unload this responsibility upon the democratic party simply because that party furnished necessary votes to allow the measure to become a law.

On the legislature as a whole, not on any political faction of it, devolves the responsibility of the present law, and it is the legislature's duty to provide amendments to cure weak places if the law is to be continued.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Lake navigation has closed after the most prosperous season for a decade.

* * *

An eclipse of the moon, almost total, will be observable next Saturday evening.

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The Chicago Tribune editorially endorses the movement of the Iowa board of control in adopting the grade system of clothing for convicts, saying: "The idea is one that is endorsed by nearly all students of penology and its success in Illinois and Ohio and other states is responsible for its adoption in Iowa. The new system is to go into force on January 1, and within two months it is hoped that all of the convicts will be equipped with the clothing to which their conduct entitles them."

* * *

It is estimated that 50,000 new cotton spindles will be started in South Carolina next year. This is much better than multiplying lynching bees.

* * *

The Mormon leaders are said to have decided to order Roberts to give up the fight, fearing the effect on the church of a full investigation. The effect of it thus far has been to solidify sentiment against polygamy.

* * *

Railroad express robbers have just successfully looted a safe out on the Union Pacific, near Cheyenne this time, along, it is said, all the way from $5,000 to $25,000. This instance furnishes another link in the chain to support the theory that an organized band is at work. It will go too far one of these days.

* * *

The republicans of the national house are troubled now, not by division in party ranks on the financial question, but by the fact that they have not provided an opportunity for a development of division in the democratic ranks in discussing the subject this week. It is known that there is serious schism in the opposition that might be developed by providing freer rein. A member of the house committee on rules admits that a strict interpretation of the parasseology of the rule under which the debate will proceed this week bars the minority from obtaining a direct vote in open house under the ayes and noes, the only record vote possible in the house proceedings. The members admitted that in view of disclosures in regard to the situation on the minority side it was unfortunate that a record vote could not be obtained on some proposition that might be advanced by the minority on some phase of 16 to 1 in the most awe-inspiring form that it could be offered by the zealous free silver leaders.

* * *

The British forces have met a serious reverse in South Africa, not so much in encountering the stolid Boers as in being caught in a trap by the misleading of guides. It is hazardous to trust those who are familiar with the lay of the land there.

* * *

The Kansas board of agriculture estimates the home value of the three leading crops grown in that state this year, wheat, corn and oats, at $80,888,622, which is an increase over the value of 1898 of about $13,000,000. The corn crop is the largest in the history of the state, with the single exception of that of the year 1889.

* * *

A Pekin, Ill., paper say that the farmers of Sparland have harvested and shipped to the Pekin factory thirteen car loads of sugar beets. Henry Schlacher raised over eighty tons on eleven acres. The farmers near Rome have about eighty acres of sugar beets to ship later.

* * *

A syndicate of eastern mills has consummated a deal in St. Louis for 1,250,000 pounds of wool. The terms of the sale were private, but it is reported the wool sold for 4 cents a pound more than the price at which the same lots were offered a short time ago, and the deal amounted to more than $250,000. All of this wool is known to the trade as "territory wool." Sixty cars will be required to transport it to its destination in the east. This is said to be the largest sale of wool ever made in the west.

* * *

One hundred and sixty thousand cotton mill operatives in the United States have tangible evidence in the shape of increased wages and more regular employment that prosperity has returned to this country.

* * *

One of the recent exhibitions of commendable journalistic enterprise was that of the Washington (Iowa) Evening Journal, which issued a beautifully printed and attractive illustrated tinted edition of sixteen pages, showing the leading features of the place and some of the faces of leading citizens. The city of Washington, the legal seat and centrally located metropolis of Washington county, in the southeastern quarter of the state, is a place of 6,000 population. It is one of the substantial points that contribute to Iowa's good standing, as noted as it is attractive. It is up-to-date in the municipal facilities that contribute to the comfort and happiness of citizens. And the Journal has most attractively set forth its good points.

IOWA PRESS COMMENT.

According to the Davenport Republican "It is said Governor Shaw, in his message, will recommend several reforms. He has not indicated what they are, but he has a couple up his sleeve."

The Iowa City Republican declares the alleged competition of convict labor with honest and lawful labor is the scheme of the demagogue to influence the labor vote his way, and it is surprised to see the Register take it up. The Republican adds: "The working men of Iowa have nothing to fear from the employment of the inmates of our charitable and penal institutions. Every dollar they earn is a dollar saved the tax payer, and every day they work better fits them to be honest and lawful laborers when they become members of society again."

The Denison Review observes that "The message of the president is not only to congress but to every American citizen and every man who wishes to be well informed, no matter what his politics, should read it. It outlines not only the president's future policy but gives a brief history of the United States during the year just past, and this from the best official sources."

The Mapleton Press believes "Our first duty and pledge in Cuba is to give the island a stable government. And Uncle Sam always lives up to his agreements."

"Brigham Young, the masterful head of the Mormon church, said he would drain Mormonism and polygamy down the throats of the American people. That is what Brigham Roberts is trying to do. It is a question of civilization. We can not understand the optimistic complacence with which some Americans treat the matter. Polygamy is a far worse and more debasing factor in the world than slavery." This is the way the Keokuk Gate City arraigns it, and it concludes by saying: "Constitutional formulas and little tuppeny rules of parliamentary procedure and punctilios should not be considered one moment when American civilization is menaced."

"The Boers may be right," says the Marion Register, "but it is not policy for this country to take sides for or against either army now striving for supremacy in that far off country." This is said with reference to "Billy" Mason's resolution of sympathy.

The Clinton Age finds that the president did not mince matters in his reference in his message to trusts, and that his utterances on that subject were bold and implicit and presumably in earnest.

The Clinton Herald looks upon the way the insane have been neglected in the county asylums as one of the grossest abuses that has ever disgraced a state. It commends the board of control for its exposure of the wrong.

The Perry Chief-Reporter warmly endorses rural free delivery. As it views the subject, "It seems almost like a dream to hope for a time when every farmer will have his mail delivered daily, but that time is about here."

The Sioux City Journal declares that "In presenting a case against Mr. Roberts the Utah Gentiles are compelled to offer an indictment of the state of Utah itself. It may be admitted that Mr. Roberts has committed offenses as an individual; it is very clear that he could not now be held to answer for them before the house of representatives but for the co-partnership with him of his state. Therefore it would appear that the case should be against Utah state, and not against Roberts, individual." It concludes a review of the subject by saying: "The real case in the instance now attracting the attention of the country and pending in the house of representatives is a case against the state of Utah, and authority to exclude Mr. Roberts from the house carries with it authority to exclude Mr. Rawlins from the senate. The principal offender is the state of Utah."

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LOOKER-ON IN IOWA

For the Times-Republican.

Stanhope, Dec. 11.—The other day this special was sent from Omaha to the Chicago Record:

"For the first time in the history of Nebraska the political complexion of the board of regents of the state university is about to be changed. The advent of the two fusionist regents-elect, J. L. Tecters and Edson Rich, has given rise to a great deal of gossip about probable changes in the faculty. Those who are inclined to take a gloomy view of the situation infer that the newly elected regents are contemplating a revolution in the affairs of the university and are preparing for the worst. Others are of the opinion that if any changes are made for political reasons these will be in the business end of the institution. The officials at the state house have a list of the employes of the institution, giving their salaries and showing their politics. Within the last few days there has been considerable agitation at the university in behalf of Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews for the position of chancellor of the university. Dr. Andrews, according to reports, is anxious to leave Chicago and get back into the university field. Fusionists are especially active in his behalf, and it is probable that a determined effort will be made to secure his appointment. The position of chancellor has remained vacant since the resignation of George R. MacLean."

* * *

And a recent issue of the Sioux City Tribune had a dispatch from Des Moines to the effect that President Gates, of Iowa College, was to resign at the end of the present collegiate year, this also being the date Professor Herron's resignation goes into effect. The reason given was that President Gates had accepted the presidency of an eastern college at three times the salary he receives at present in Grinnell. The author of the special also stated that this contemplated resignation was the result of President Gates' well known views in sympathy with Herronism. As Dr. Herron openly espoused and took part in the populistic campaign in Ohio the inference seems to be that President Gates is also to be classed with that political organization, hence this resignation.

* * *

The writer having taken some part in the Herron controversy and having some friends among the trustees of Iowa College, who perhaps give him some pointers others are not so fortunate in obtaining, feels at liberty to say some things, all without any conversation with President Gates or being any direct inspiration from any of the trustees. The reason for publishing in the preceding paragraph this bit of news concerning the university of Nebraska is for the public to realize what it means for a collegiate institution "to get into politics." What will our eastern friends think of us when in Nebraska republicans are turned out of a university and in Iowa populists are forced to resign from the college faculty. For the animus of the special to the Tribune is to that effect. Unquestionably the Iowa University, at Iowa City, today under President MacLean, represents republicanism strong and hearty. Congressman Dolliver in his address at their last commencement, without saying so in so many words, brought out this fact. And an impression has gone abroad that Iowa College represents anarchism, socialism, populism and several other isms because of Dr. Herron's chair of applied Christianity. This feeling has been increased because Golden Rule Jones and Altgeld have delivered addresses before the students of Iowa College.

* * *

Now, the writer can state of his personal knowledge that not only a large percentage of the Iowa College faculty is composed of republicans, but the trustees are largely if not unanimously of the same political faith. President Gates is an intense republican when prohibition is linked with republicanism, has been known to attend republican caucuses and if he has any politics can be classed with that political party. So much for this rot, that Iowa College is a populistic organization. Iowa College under the present management believes in the full and free discussion of all live questions. It is a thoroughly up to date college in the sense that if there is anything new under the sun the students there hear of it. Golden Rule Jones and Altgeld set them "a thinkin'." President Gates himself never talks to them without saying something. His influence in Congregational church circles (and this college is Congregational if anything), has been of a broadening nature. He has done more than any one man in Iowa to eliminate from the church environments the hide-bound, narrow constructed views that gave Grinnell the title of Saint's Rest. He has done this in such a way that no taint of "unorthodoxy" attaches itself to his utterances. So much for President Gates' personal position.

* * *

It is unnecessary to mention that what appears in this column only happens to be the opinions of the writer, but he is not alone in saying that while Prof. Herron's resignation was desirable and for the best interests of the college, that of President Gates will be a positive loss to the institution. Especially will it be if such a result is brought about for political reasons. If it had not been for the manly letter of Dr. Herron, the charge of the suppression of free speech in Iowa College would have been made. His letter was the best answer published for it refuted even the charges of his friends. And while public sentiment forced the resignation of Dr. Herron, the same strong power of the community will resent a forced resignation from President Gates, whether he be a republican, democrat, populist or prohibitionist.

A P Thayer.

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