

TERMS: Evening edition by mail... \$5.00 By the month by mail... \$1.50

Entered at the postoffice at Marshalltown as second class mail matter.

The Association of American Advertisers has examined and certified to the circulation of this publication.

MEN AND MORALS AND MOTIVES.

The Charles City Press, a standpat paper, injects new food for thought and another question for argument into the Iowa political situation.

Now this opens an interesting field for observation and conclusion which each person may enter or not as he sees fit.

However, it might be of value to the person who is anxious to match men with motives, to go deep into comparison of reactionary and progressive leaders as well as of reactionary and progressive policies and issues.

Men grow, in time, like to the issues they advance and the policies they urge. There can be little objection to a quiet comparison of the progressives and reactionaries of the senate and the character of the men as of the things they stand for.

Size 'em up. Size up the issues, the causes, the effects, the motives, the men. Comparison, while odious, is often useful.

A ROAD LAW AT WORK.

Men who are investing money in Texas land in order to get rich quick from the rapid rise in values should listen to a story of Texas progress which contains a moral for home application.

The Houston Post of April 2 says editorially of the roads built under this law:

"A pioneer in the good roads movement in this state, Harris county continues to demonstrate her faith in the value of such improvements by going ahead with the work of extending the excellent system whose ultimate goal is the complete gridironing of the county with permanently paved thoroughfares as rapidly as judicious financing will permit.

"The new pavements will increase the county's paved road mileage to about 300 miles, giving Harris county more miles of paved roadway than any other county in the state.

"The judge who refuses divorces permission to wed within the year spoils many a well laid matrimonial plan. About half the time the man in the case refuses to wait.

"While it costs something to build good roads, it is an undisputed fact that the enhancement of land values thereby stimulated soon offsets in the way of increased tax returns the cost of such improvements, and as to the increased tax upon the individual property holder, the greatly enhanced value of his holdings compensates him many times over for any inconvenience he may suffer therefrom.

"Moreover, one of the first questions asked by prospective investors from the outside is regarding a county's system of roads. With such investors the answer to this question is an index to the character of the county's citizenship, and is a potential factor in determining his investment. Indeed, it has almost come to a proverb that judicious investors seek progressive communities in which to place their investments, and the more progress dis-

played by the citizenship of such communities, the larger the flow of investments that way.

REFORM AND THE LORDS CONSENT.

William E. Curtis, usually right and always entertaining, made a mistake the other day when he said seriously that the English house of lords could not be reformed without its own consent. That is, he was mistaken so far as anything vital is concerned.

The growth of the peerage shows to what an extent this prerogative of the crown to create new peers has been used. Thus on Christmas day, 1688, the lords, spiritual and temporal, who requested William of Orange to take up the administration of affairs and the disposal of the public revenue and to issues writs for a convention did not number more than ninety; in 1712 a motion of the marquis of Halifax in the house of lords on an important matter in connection with the war of the Spanish succession was negatived by a vote of 68 to 40; in 1765 there were 202 lords temporal; in 1865, 454; in 1909, 618. Before 1910 is over there may be a still greater number, although the more likely event is that, brought face to face with the inevitable and minimizing as best they can the broads upon their power, the lords will yield to reform without the intervention of the crown.

The Washington Post recounts fruitless attempts to circumscribe the monarch's power in this respect. Among the nineteen proposals of the Long Parliament to curb the power of Charles I was one to bar the creation of new peers. During the protectorate Cromwell unsuccessfully tried the experiment of doing without a house of lords altogether. In 1712, Queen Anne created twelve new peers to secure a tory majority to carry the treaty of Utrecht.

"The prerogative has remained exactly as it was from that day to this," says the Post. "It has been a very convenient weapon in the hands of ministers when they wanted to force a measure of popular reform thru the upper chamber. The mere threat to exercise it, and so 'swamp' the lords, was enough, for example, to carry the reform act of 1832 and the disestablishment of the Irish church in 1869."

And the mere threat, if it comes to that, will likely be sufficient on this occasion. The lords will "consent" to be reformed, either as they are or as they will be with a batch of new faces among them. They will "consent" because they can't help themselves. In that sense Mr. Curtis is right. In a more vital sense he is not.

Topics of the Times

A week of raw cold weather would assist to realization of what it means to have 69,000 coal miners idle.

It would be a great pity to put Governor Hughes on the supreme bench and thus lose him.

It is claimed by ex-Mayor Henderson's friends that the election of one of his entourage to the majority of Maringo is a vindication of Henderson who was removed from office for drunkenness. But the newly elected mayor is not likely to consider it a reversal of the supreme court and a license to tarry long at the booze.

Imagine the navigability of the Des Moines river when the surveying engineers are doing the work in skiffs!

Good political carpenters might complain that Dr. Bannister hardly grades up to the post he is connected with. But this was probably a contract job.

One of the wonders of modern political science is the resurrection of Frank D. Jackson whose "bones have rose again."

The judge who refuses divorces permission to wed within the year spoils many a well laid matrimonial plan. About half the time the man in the case refuses to wait.

Open up the Mittenellville business. Spring the scandal if there is such. It is easier to meet a direct charge than a lying rumor. Nothing ever was gained for the right by compromise with scandal mongers.

Even the Cedar Rapids Republican refuses to countenance the scheme to expend millions on the Des Moines river in order to give Hull two years more in congress and "help business" in Des Moines. The Republican designates the scheme as "political bunco."

Perhaps Mayor Hanna as a "theorist" will assist to balance Zell Roe's "practical" ideas.

IOWA OPINIONS AND NOTES.

"Just get it out of your mind that prices will forever advance. They will not," says the Cedar Rapids Republican.

"March is history," says the Cedar Rapids Gazette. "We shall probably never see its like again. Thirty-one fair days in March is something so unusual as to be made note of in future publications dealing with the history of the state."

"John Cowles has a fine business of his own. In all probability he will be thousands of dollars ahead annually

as a consequence of giving it his personal attention instead of letting it run itself while drawing a modest salary from the state," says the consolatory Sioux City Journal. "Incidentally he can do as he pleases in running his own business without inviting criticism from anybody. Mr. Cowles stands in no need of sympathy. On the contrary congratulations are in order."

"Of course the next legislature will pass a law providing for some kind of regulation of telephone rates. If it does not the legislators will be hearing from home," says the Iowa City Citizen.

The Dubuque Times-Journal says: "The theory that the people favor the commission plan because they wish the laws enforced was also jotted hard. Commissioner Hamner of Des Moines was beaten and for the reason that as police commissioner he enforced the law. The people under the old system can have just as good or as lax government as the demand."

"In the prime of vigorous manhood, the most commanding figure of his generation, with unquenchable yearning to be and to do in the interests of patriotism, the career of Theodore Roosevelt as a world character is as yet by no means complete," says the Spirit Lake Beacon. "Events casting shadows before give him promise of enduring place and power in the exercise of which his country will be blessed and prospered."

The Mason City Times says: "The Iowa man who went clear to Egypt to tell Roosevelt that all Iowa wanted him to be a candidate for president upon his return to the United States, was both energetic and truthful. Iowa will back up his promise."

GENERAL EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The republican party would not hearken to its Cummings and La Follette and Mordocks and Norries and other prophets and sons of prophets, and neither will it hearken to its Garfields or other sons of presidents. The republican party is stoning its prophets this year.—St. Louis Republic.

Elgin women removed their new hats when they attended Easter services. After this we shall believe women are capable of rising to any heights, spiritually or mentally.—Chicago Record-Herald.

British consuls are reported to be low. Lucky are those who have raised American hogs as compared to those who have invested in consuls.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The most obtuse of the reactionaries in congress have begun at last to perceive the direction in which the political wind is blowing.—Philadelphia Record.

Reception committees who do not want current questions discussed will hereafter be careful about calling on Theodore Roosevelt for a speech.—Washington Star.

There's an idea somebody fooled Etna and Vesuvius by telling them Colonel Roosevelt had landed and expected fireworks.—New York Evening Telegram.

Having settled the question, "What is whisky?" the government experts are now asking "What is wine?" The oldest and best answer is that wine is a mocker.—New York Mail.

Mr. Vertrees' statement, "On March 4, 1909, came the reign of law," is a reminder that the lawyers never reign but they pour.—Kansas City Star.

The insurgents and the regulars seem to have effected a compromise in which the former become the latter.—Atlanta Constitution.

Woman suffrage may or may not come, but what are we to do to judge from the headlines in the East Hartford Gazette, "Sidewalks voted"—Hartford Times.

The Pittsburg councilmen, it appears, were not only corrupt but cheap.—Cleveland Leader.

The vice president caused a sensation in the senate the other day. He sneezed so loudly that people knew just where he stood.—Charleston News and Courier.

Can it be possible that those Massachusetts voters decline to take the president's word for it that the Aldrich-Payne tariff is the "best tariff law ever passed"?—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Outside Point of View.

Things were very much to his liking. He liked the people and they liked him. The parsonage was homelike, if not exactly modern. Of course he would have changed some things if he could, but he was contented. And so was his wife. Once in a while he imagined himself preaching every Sunday to a great big congregation, and having the reporters for the daily papers ask "for 2500 words of his sermon yesterday."

And while he really cared little for money, still the family expenses were increasing and there wasn't much left at the end of the year. He wasn't filling the library very fast. Probably was doing as much good here as anywhere, yet he felt if he had a chance to reach larger crowds, if he could talk to more men and women, perhaps it was in him to become "one of the foremost preachers of the day." Perhaps they would want him to stay here until he was old and gray and then—

Rev. Mr. H. C. Blake, Centerville, Mo.

Dear Sir:—The undersigned, appointed as a committee of three to select a minister for the Congregational church of Zenephon, Mass., visited your town and church on a recent Sabbath, and were impressed that you are the man we have been looking for. In the past our church has had some unpleasant and unfortunate experience in filling vacancies in our pulpit and to avoid a similar experience, we as a committee, have been empowered at this time to call to this church anyone who, in our judgment, would be acceptable to the large congregation we represent. Our membership now consists of 1,200, representing over 1,600 active members. We can offer you a salary of \$3,500 per year and a parsonage free. We suggest that you visit our town, look over the ground, and as a visitor, not a candidate, see if the church, the people and our environment makes this a desir-

able offer for you to entertain. We prefer for several reasons that all of the business arrangements be made by letter and the whole matter be settled before any knowledge of it comes to the public. We therefore suggest in case you are open to another engagement that your visit to our town be quickly made in the near future future and let us hear from you at your earliest possible convenience. Yours truly,

A. B. CLARK, D. E. FINCH, G. H. INGRAM, Trustees.

Zenephon, Mass., March 31, 1919.

[Extract from a letter written by Rev. Mr. H. C. Blake, Zenephon, Mass., to Deacon Miles, Centerville, Mo.]

"My Dear Brother—You will be surprised to hear I have closed my pastorate here in Zenephon. It's a strange, strange world. When I left you and the church at Centerville, it seemed to me that at last the world was giving me a chance. Here was my opportunity and with God's help I would make the most of it. And yet, here I am miserably. What the future has for me and mine the Lord only knows. But I have my self respect left. The temptations to remain here with this large church was a strong one, but I resisted it. For months after I came here our relations as pastor and people were all that could be asked for. And when I went to the meeting of our Ministerial Association, and was asked to preach before that body and a large audience, I welcomed the chance. But it proved to be my undoing. What I said on that occasion was fully reported in the daily papers of the town where we had our meeting. My sermon was correctly reported. In fact, I gave the reporters a type written copy. In that sermon I referred to the scriptural accounts of the life of Jesus, and the life of our Lord Christ. Those few words have apparently ended my career as an orthodox preacher of the Christian religion. I said what I thought to be true and I still think so. As a result of those words I was asked to resign and have done so. I am sure that the members of the church in Zenephon by a large majority, hold similar views to mine, but unfortunately for me and the church, we have a small number of good old fathers in the church, that were shocked at my words and ideas. To their credit I can say they are the workers in the church. They attend prayer meetings. They try to live a christian life seven days in the week. But oh, how far they are behind modern thought and the present day teachings of the foolish religion of today. I do not and do not blame them. My words it seems, were almost blasphemous to them. They still believe in all of the miracles as literally true. To them every word in the bible is true. Any other view, any explanation not in exact accord with their belief, they cannot understand. And while they are in the minority, while I could count on a large following in this big church, it seemed best for me to acquiesce in their letter asking for my signature. I am trying to school myself to avoid any unkind words or thoughts, but still I am fortunate enough to be called to some other field of labor. It will be best not to make arrangements with "a committee of three."

Yours very truly,

H. C. BLAKE, Zenephon, Mass., March 1, 1910.

RESURRECTION BY GALVANISM.

Elsewhere we print "A Voice From the Tombs," an editorial from that howling insurgent reform progressive newspaper, the Marshalltown Times-Republican, which we find copied into that other devoted free trade boosting scribble participating in Wesley News-World. The reader will notice it is in reply to a four-line squib in our paper of March 3, and is intended to dig up and scatter to the winds the lifeless remains of this writer. In doing this the T-R man does not hesitate to draw upon his imagination by saying we used to speak in laudatory terms of Dolliver. We have never had any faith in Dolliver's republicanism since, years ago, he was only restrained from being an Iowa idealist by the influence of Senator Allison. So far as the T-R is concerned, we have no respect for any man, this is the first time we have ever been accused. The T-R, on the other hand, glories in licksplite adulation of everything bearing the Cummins tag; it swallows without mastication every bastard dogma born of the unwholesome combination of insurgent reform progressives and free trade democrats, and revels in its political apostasy and treachery. That is something of which no man has ever accused the Clipper, and no one will ever truthfully do so. The T-R may delight to draw upon his imagination and even copperheadism while reviling as "ancient and wornout political Danites" republicans who have proven their party loyalty for half a century, and it may hope for "the retirement of a busted political hierarchy," as it is pleased to brag, but we glory in the admidations of such party traitors now as much as we used to be called by southern traitors a "Yankee," a "northern mudsill," an "invader," etc., when we were touring with Gen. Sherman in the sunny south. The T-R is trafficking now with the remnants of the defeated southern insurgency of 1861-65. We can afford to read with equanimity the despairing growls and abjurations of such reptiles, as they realize that day by day they are losing caste with the people they have been bullying and deceiving ever since the birth of the Iowa idea. If Dolliver wants to be in politics, and do something, he will have to cut out finding fault. Nobody has any use for a man who is simply an obstructionist. He may succeed, in the same way the stunk does, in kicking up enough stink to make legislation uncomfortable and disagreeable; but Iowa people won't long stand for the brand of malodorous stuff he and Cummins are slopping over. Both will be smoked out and Iowa will send in men to take their places who will work with the republican majority instead of against it for "the interests" of the whole people. The T-R realizes this just as well as we do. "A Voice From the Tombs" has said it.

POLITICAL HOMICIDE.

[Glidden Graphic.] The friends and supporters of the insurgent senators and congressmen from Iowa should control the next state convention and express in plain language approval of the senator. That is the only kind of republicanism that will carry the country in the next election. With the rapid spread of intelligence, with the increasing growth of altruistic sentiment, with the broader and deeper sense of appreciation of responsibility and of the "brother's keeper," there must be corresponding response in political and legislative circles. Reactionaries are in hopeless minority in every part of the country. To allow them to control party machinery and dictate party platforms is equivalent to plain political homicide.

HULL'S NAVIGATION SCHEME.

A more chimerical scheme than the navigation of the Iowa rivers was really never proposed. But they are going ahead with the work on the Des Moines—at least until after the congressional campaign. The whole thing is ridiculous. The writer was born in proximity to the Des Moines river and spent 25 years of his life in intimate acquaintance with its flow of waters. He has seen it a mile wide and he has seen it dwindle into a small creek. If dams are constructed to hold the water, back of the dams will soon be filled with mud for the Des Moines river has plenty of mud in it. After millions of dollars have been spent on that river it will still hold less water than is now held by the Missouri on the western boundary of Iowa. But who uses the Missouri for modern commerce? Who uses the Mississippi? All along the Mississippi from Keokuk to Minneapolis are the remnants of trading stations. There is water enough in the Mississippi to supply half a dozen Des Moines rivers after it has been improved. But they don't use the Mississippi, then why should they use the Des Moines. They won't. From Des Moines to Ottumwa is sixty or seventy miles by the river and there is not a way station in all that distance. Pella and Oskaloosa and Knoxville are good towns, but they are so far removed from the river bank that reshipping and drayage would make them impossible for river traffic. The whole scheme means political bunco and the men behind it know it as well as anyone.

WHAT COUNTRY PAPERS THINK.

[Monticello Express.] The daily papers have indulged in a good deal of foolishness about the elopement of a kiddish son of prominent statesman with a shop girl. It was just an ordinary case of an impulsive youth running away with the girl he liked. But no country paper in his village sphere could have been so ridiculous as to write as the city papers were in their treatment of young Mr. Knox's sudden exit from school.

THE ROAD DRAG.

A farmer came into the office this morning and said, "I wish you would urge the people to use the King drag on the roads right now, when they need it." He said, "If they wait for the wet spots to get dry before they drag, the most of the road will be too dry to allow the King drag to be used. Every mile dragged before the spring rains come is a mile of better road for all summer." Continuing he said, "One of our rural free delivery carriers, one who lives in my neighborhood, commenced talking King drag to his patrons last Monday night. The way he is something of a crank on good roads, and on the following day four of the farmers were on the road with their King drags. I passed him on the way to town this morning, and he was wearing a smile as broad as the tail of Halley's comet. He would urge your readers to try this on their carriers and watch the effect. There are not enough King drags in the districts to do justice to the work, and here is an opportunity for those whose business it is to furnish drags to see that they are constructed. I believe that it is the duty of all road supervisors to comply with the statute, and see that the roads are dragged. Our laws are good enough if they are only enforced, and with them enforced we will have reasonably good roads. That is all I have to say this morning. Good bye."

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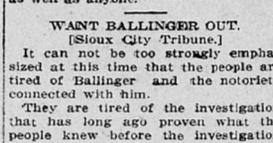
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Every family and especially those who reside in the country should be provided at all times with a bottle of Chamberlain's Laxative. There is no telling when it may be wanted in case of an accident or emergency. It is most excellent in all cases of rheumatism, sprains and bruises. Sold by all dealers.

SEE HOODOO IN CAT ENGINEERS DREAD TO SEE ANIMAL CROSS TRACK. Especially if it is Black is it Regarded as a Sure Sign of Coming Disaster—Some Other Superstitions.



The engineer and fireman are the firmest believers in the dangers of a black cat crossing the track in front of an engine.

WANT BALLINGER OUT.

It can not be too strongly emphasized at this time that the people are tired of Ballinger and the notoriety connected with him.

The exposure of Ballinger and his gang was a proper move in the first place. Just as all exposures are proper for their purifying effect, but the long drawn out investigation is now becoming an advertisement of the inefficiency and apparent reluctance of the congressional committee.

The Cummings and the Guggenheims got their attorney into the cabinet, and that is the only issue now in the case. The sooner the investigation is brought to a close, whatever the verdict may be, the more the general public, and especially the republican voters of the country, will feel relieved.

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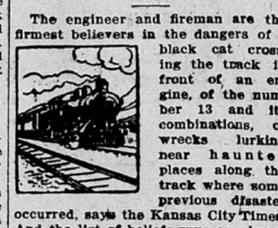
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THE LODGES.

MASONIC NOTICES. Visitors always welcome. Hall over 105-107 West Main.

MARSHALL LODGE, 105, A. F. & A. M.—Work on third degree Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p. m.

R. W. Chamberlain, W. M. H. S. Lawrence, Secretary. SIGNET CHAPTER No. 28, R. A. M.—Stated convocation Monday, April 15, 8 p. m.

George H. Boggie, E. H. P. I. S. Miasid, Secretary. KING SOLOMON COUNCIL, NO. 20, R. & S. M.—Stated assembly Monday, April 15, 8 p. m.

A. D. MEEKER, T. I. M. I. T. FORBES, Rec. ST. ALDEMAR COMMANDERY, No. 80 K. T.—Stated convocation Tuesday evening, April 19, 1916, at 7:30 sharp. Sir knights by present if possible. Fred Wallace, Recorder.

Fred M. Wilbur, E. C. CENTRAL CHAPTER, No. 67, O. E. S.—Regular meeting Wednesday evening, April 13, at 7:30. Mrs. George Downing, W. M. Edna C. Fularton, Secretary.

division with 15 fatalities to its credit there. It is said that the reason it was transferred was that railroad men on the eastern division refused to run it.

Shortly after its wreck at Thompson, Mo., October 28, 1907, in which four were killed, a number of railroaders tried to form an "anti-847 club," the purpose of which was to boycott the hoodoo engine of the division. The scheme failed and now the "man killer," as its homeloid nickname stands, runs regularly between Moberly and Kansas City.

The Wreckmaster.

"When a wreck blocks the line the wreckmaster is the biggest man on the railroad," writes "Thaddeus S. Dayton in Harper's Weekly. "An express car up toward the forward end of the passenger train is tied tremblingly on its trucks. It is loaded with bales of silk, perhaps, or with other costly merchandise. The wreckers do not stop to inquire. To them it is simply an obstruction that has to be removed immediately. There is a heaving chorus and it plunges down the embankment. As it lands there is a crash of discordant, tortured strings. 'Pianos,' remarks one of the panting workmen to another standing at his shoulder. 'They do not pause even to grin.'"

Some men bear the terrible wreck that brands them as hoodoos. They may be good, jolly fellows, and railroaders will cheerfully meet them anywhere except on a train or on an engine. Here their past records prove them lightning conductors of disaster. The most widely known of these unfortunate superstitious is an engineer on the Chicago & Alton. Mr. never suffers himself, but more than 20 have died on the pilots of engines of which he held the throttle.

In September, 1907, Wabash accommodation running from Moberly to St. Louis, crashed into an open switch at Mexico, Mo., and killed three. As D. B. Taylor, the fireman, was dragged out from beneath his engine, he said:

"I saw a black cat run across the track just as we pulled out of the yards. I said something would happen, but the fellows all laughed at me." Thus has the hoodoo of the black cat, almost forgotten by railroad men, revived.