

The Freeman

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It is a maxim that those to whom everybody allows second place have an undoubted title to the first.—Swift.

The Sioux City Journal thinks Kenyon is all right and that is what the people of Iowa think.

All noxious weeds, except Col. Youngs senatorial aspirations, seem to be thriving regardless of the weather.

Will Payne, the talented standpat editor of the Nevada, Iowa, Representative, favors LaFollette for president in preference to Taft.

If Dave Brant is understood at this distance he says, "You're another.—Sioux City Journal.

And if Uncle George be not misunderstood he is saying the same thing to David.

When the thermometer was hovering around the zero point last winter we all thought hot weather more preferable. It is easier to be dissatisfied than satisfied with the weather.

Remember the horse and other animals in your charge during the excessive hot weather. They suffer as much as you and more if neglected. They need an abundance of fresh water.

There is really no need of additional evidence in the Lorimer case. The evidence is sufficient, if reliable, and the trial this time is before a jury not committed to defendant before the hearing commences.

Iowa democrats are perfectly willing that Governor Carroll should run for a third term.—Fort Dodge Chronicle.

No doubt, but Iowa republicans are not looking for a candidate who will be the choice of democrats.

The friendship of the Illinois politicians is something to be admired if directed to a worthy cause. The politician in that state who will not help a friend buy a seat in the United States senate is the exception.

No, it is not claimed that the proposed reciprocity agreement with Canada is responsible for the increase in the price of corn. The weather alone, which threatens to curtail the crop, caused the upward tendency in the market.

Reports say that when the gas meter on the Maine was discovered the other day it was running full tilt just as it was on the day the ship was sunk by that explosion. That is what the gas men would call a most reliable piece of machinery.

It is reported that land in certain sections of North and South Dakota can be bought at from \$10 to \$20 per acre cheaper than the price two years ago, due to the excessive dry weather. But Iowa land keeps right on hitting only the high places.

Corn needs warm weather, but there is a limit in the amount of heat it can stand. Much of the Iowa crop has already been seriously damaged by the excessive heat of the past two weeks. It is doing better here in the central part of the state than in most sections.

If Halley's comet is responsible for this hot weather, as Prophet Eusby declares, seventy-five years is often enough for it to make its visits. And it might be suggested in this connection that few people would care to live to see it make a return engagement.

Some of the papers of the state are agitated unduly, it seems to the Freeman-Tribune, lest Senator Cummins will support LaFollette for president and Senator Kenyon will support Taft. If the senators want to line up that way, what of it? They certainly have the right to support whom they see fit, just as every other man in the state. There is no more reason to hint at strained relations between the senators mere-

ly because they disagree, if disagree they do, upon a choice of a presidential candidate than there is to hint at such relations between other citizens who do not support identical candidates.

The Des Moines Capital continues to put it all over all other Des Moines newspapers combined in the amount of paid advertising matter.—Des Moines Capital.

And in bragging and blowing about itself the Capital "puts it all over" every newspaper in Iowa, and in the nation, for that matter.

It took the senate a long time at the mourners' bench before it became converted on the popular election gospel.—Gate City.

And no sooner was the senate converted than the democratic house turned tail and lit out for the tall timber—and it hasn't "come back" yet.

In a fourth of July address former Secretary Ballinger expressed fear lest the rights of the people should be taken from them through bureaucratic officialdom. Possibly the ex-secretary had not heard of the great improvement in the interior department under Secretary Fisher.

If William Howard Taft was a novice in politics, as stated by some of his friends when elected to the presidency, it must be conceded that he is an alfred apt scholar. Today he is regarded as one of the most astute politicians who ever occupied the white house, not excepting that past-master, Theodore Roosevelt.

An ideal way to keep cool is to think of Governor Carroll running for a third term.—Sioux City Tribune.

Surely the chances of the governor winning are not such as to cause cold shivers to chase each other up and down the spine of the average progressive, are they? The Freeman-Tribune doesn't regard the governor as formidable as that.

Col. Young is to be commended for the self-restraint he exhibited the other day. An issue of the Capital appeared without an editorial attack upon either of Iowa's senators. If the colonel keeps on improving in this direction he may yet be able to get out one copy of his paper without glorifying and magnifying the achievements of ex-Senator Young.

Former Senator Hopkins of Illinois declared before the Lorimer investigating committee that he had been told when a candidate for reelection that ten democratic legislative votes could be purchased. "What did you say to that," inquired Senator Kenyon of the committee. "I said I was a candidate for the senate, not for the penitentiary," responded Mr. Hopkins.

Weather Forecaster John C. Busby of Independence, Iowa, may be only "half-baked," but he certainly hit the nail a terrific blow upon the head when he forecasted a hot June. Let us hope, however, that he is mistaken in his prognostications for July, which, he declares, is to be hotter than—we can't just think of the word, but it rhymes with well, as nearly as we can remember.

Edward Hines, of unsavory Lorimer record, declared before the investigating committee that Senator Aldrich told him President Taft said he wanted Lorimer elected senator. The president says he never said anything of the kind. It is now up to Mr. Aldrich to make explanations. The country will believe the president, however, in the absence of more confirmatory evidence than that of Hines.

According to a dispatch from Washington the loss of the battleship Maine was caused by an explosion from the inside, her three magazines having exploded. This is credited to a statement made by Gen. Bixby, chief of engineers, who has returned from a personal inspection of the wreck. If this report is true, Spain is exonerated from the charge of having blown up the ship, a charge that was never sustained but that was made and repeated by those who wanted to rush the country into war. The cause of the disaster will never be known, but it is some satisfaction to know that it

was not the design of a foreign country.

The congressman who will do as he is told to do, is only a lackey, the lackey of a dictator, or a would-be-dictator.—Cedar Rapids Republican.

The Republican is right. The congressman worthy of the position will not be intimidated by the political sandbagger. He will use his own judgment in voting upon public questions or when making recommendations for a postmastership or other official position.

"To bribe with promise of political preferment," says the Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, "is more iniquitous than to turn into the pocket mere money, for it is much more insidious and works harm in every way. Iowa republicans are determined that no half dozen men shall name their candidates without protest. There is determination that barter and sale of public patronage shall not prevail, in whatever name it is made."

There have been many shrewd men in our public life who have been able to keep their ears to the ground and guess as to the current of popular prejudice. But not one of them is remembered today—Register and Leader.

Senator Allison was a good ear-grounder and he is very much remembered today. Is it not well to listen to the voice of the people? Must a man in public life disregard public sentiment in order to establish his courage?

Whether Taft is right or wrong one cannot help but admire his nerve in threatening to veto a Canadian reciprocity bill if amended.—Marshalltown Times-Republican.

No question of the president's nerve, but he is certainly inviting just criticism when he undertakes to influence legislation by threats. The senate ought to amend the bill if in its judgment it should be amended, regardless of what the president will do when it reaches him for approval or disapproval.

"Lafe Young," notes an exchange, "will not have the courage to run against Kenyon for United States senator." The Freeman-Tribune believes the exchange is wrong. Lafe Young has his frailties, but lack of courage is not one of them. However, as the colonel is something of a politician and knows how to play the game, he will see the futility of a contest against Kenyon and for that reason will not be a candidate; in the judgment of the Freeman-Tribune.

There are seven hundred saloons less in Iowa than on the first of July and the number has decreased 2,300 in the past six or seven years. The loss of the men who operated these places, many of whom have left the state, may have something to do with the unsatisfactory census showing of 1910. Who knows but that the higeria of saloonkeepers and tax-dodgers is what reduced the population a few thousand as compared with ten years ago? And if so, who will regret the reduction?

Some editors who do not like to sacrifice their own dignity have less respect for the dignity of their paper, hence they permit anonymous correspondents to make mean personal attacks upon men whom they (the editor) do not care to attack themselves. Of course the correspondent who resorts to such underhand methods must of necessity be a degenerate, but he is entitled to just as much respect as the editor who permits his paper to be used in such manner.

If the people knowingly elect unclean men to office that is the people's fault and they are entitled to no immunity from the consequences. But when the people's representatives in office knowingly appoint men of questionable integrity and character to stations of public trust those responsible ought to be held to strict accountability. Officials clothed with authority to appoint others to positions of service in the government—county, state or nation—are not serving their constituents faithfully when they appoint men of unsatisfactory record. Other things being equal it is but natural that public officials appoint their

friends, but if their friends are not worthy of the trust they have no right to thrust them upon the public.

"Oh, my," exclaimed the enthusiastic young bear hunter, "isn't it great sport to hunt bears?" "Well, yes," drawled the seasoned backwoods craftsman, "but it is h— when the 'bar' hunts you." Likewise it is great fun to oppose the "home candidate" for judge or state printer, but it's not so funny when the "home candidate" for United States district marshal is not accorded unanimous and enthusiastic home support. That is so different, you know.

"The land of fulfilled promises." That's Iowa and the Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye deserves credit for coining the phrase. There are plenty of lands of promise, but mighty few lands of fulfilled promises. Here in Iowa we know the phrase conveys a truth and nothing but the truth. The appearance of Iowa soil promises much. It looks rich and fertile and no man was ever yet deceived when he put his confidence and his money and his energy into it. Verily, Iowa IS the land of fulfilled promises.

Senator Paynter of Kentucky, a member of the whitewashing committee of the senate that did such a bungling job in the Lorimer case, is not a candidate for re-election and it looks now as though Ollie James would get the toga. Mr. James is a brother-in-law to Prof. Ford, formerly of this city, and has been here upon one or two occasions. He has some acquaintances in Webster City who would be glad to see him transferred from the lower house of congress, where he has been serving for years, to a seat in the upper branch.

Senator Nelson is for Taft. The term of service of the senior senator from Minnesota will expire in 1913, and he has a personal interest in 1912. Senator Clapp has recently had an extension of time until 1917, and feels that he has nothing to lose in standing for LaFollette.—Sioux City Journal.

The Journal certainly places little confidence in the patriotism of Minnesota's senators. According to the logic of the Sioux City paper, Nelson is for Taft because it will help Nelson and Clapp is for LaFollette because Clapp will be benefited.

It now looks as though the democratic house of representatives is going to block the proposition for the election of senators by direct vote. By a strict party vote the senate resolution in favor of it has been defeated in the lower house. If some scheme could be devised whereby senators could be elected by popular vote in republican states and by the legislatures in democratic states, the democratic house would vote for it with a great hurrah. Democrats in congress are seldom able to see above partisan advantage.

Senator LaFollette has thousands of friends all over the country who do not deem next year as the time for him to try for the presidency, but who will be for him if he decides to enter the contest. There are others who would be for him under different circumstances who will not be for him next year. But none of his friends, or fair-minded opponents, will question his right to be a candidate and make as strong a showing as possible. The Wisconsin senator is growing in popularity every year and if he is able to retain his present following will prove a formidable candidate in 1916 if then in the race.

There are now some thirty thousand automobiles owned in Iowa and the state collects about three hundred thousand dollars in taxes from the owners. This money should all be expended in road improvement, which, with the funds secured in the various counties, ought to make it possible for Iowa to have roads in fair condition during the wet seasons of the year. It will not be long until the number of autos owned in Iowa will reach fifty thousand and there is no telling where the number will stop. Possibly not until one hundred thousand is reached.

Then the fund collected from owners will be in the neighborhood of one million dollars per year. The automobile is the forerunner of good roads, hence a public benefactor in one respect at least.

Had President Taft exhibited the courage and the determination in fighting for a fair revision of the tariff that he is now revealing in his fight for reciprocity a much better tariff law than that now upon the statutes would have resulted and the republican party would not now be fearing defeat at the next national election. Mr. Taft was slow in getting on the armor, but he has demonstrated that he is not afraid of making use of it after it is on.

Postmaster General Hitchcock thinks the railroads are getting nine millions of dollars a year more for carrying the mails than they should. Possibly, but they will keep on getting it until the postmaster general or some one else kicks up enough dust about it to arouse the public. There is nothing so effective in enforcing economy in any direction as public sentiment. The average member of congress fears the public wrath and that is about the only thing he fears. And the railroads do not look with indifference upon public opinion.

Indications are that the next census of Iowa will show an increase in population. Quite a few of the farmers who left the state a few years ago in search of cheaper land are coming back. They found what they were looking for, but have arrived at the conclusion that cheap land is not what they want. The drouth epoch seems to be due in some of the western states and some thoughtful farmers think this is but the beginning of a dry spell of several years duration in the states that have heretofore suffered from lack of moisture. And these thoughtful farmers are of the very sound opinion that no state equals Iowa for agricultural purposes.

The people of Iowa must allow their representatives in congress some latitude. Men of intelligence and action, having conscience and courage, must disagree upon public questions. All cannot see alike. If they could there would be little progress. What is needed in congress is men of character, ability and integrity who look upon their duties as a trust imposed by the people and who want to do their duty to the people. If the public have confidence in a man they will go far with him and permit him free exercise of judgment. He need not be in agreement with popular sentiment upon all things. Note the attitude of Senator Hoar when the Spanish-American war was on. He did not reflect the judgment of Massachusetts but Massachusetts endorsed him for re-election just the same.

According to report ex-Secretary L. M. Shaw has predicted that before the end of President Taft's term there will be more men idle in America than there were at the beginning of McKinley's term, and the former secretary lays the responsibility at the door of the trusts and combinations that are maneuvering to control the labor market and dictate terms to workingmen. Mr. Shaw is a shrewd man of affairs and what he says is entitled to respectful consideration. But suppose his prediction proves true, what are we going to do about it? If congress takes the bull by the horns to correct the evils complained of, warning is at once forthcoming that there will be a panic—a panic of money—hence it is deemed the better part of valor to permit injustice to have the right-of-way. This condition will prevail until the common people of the United States are ready to stamp out wrong regardless of financial consequences. They must face business depression and unsettled conditions until the root of the trouble is cut away. The party in congress that applies the knife to the wound, cutting deep enough to remove the dangerous parts, will be ordered from power the first opportunity the voters have. No effective results can be vouchsafed until the voters are

ready to stand by their representatives and insist upon just supervision of corporations and combinations that seek to control values by arbitrary methods. It is up to the people. They have the power and know the remedy, but are unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices.

The Sioux City Journal intimates that Dave Brant of the Iowa City Republican, who is in a controversy with Gov. Carroll, has some kind of disappointment which he is harboring, and reference is made to David's defeat when a candidate for nomination for lieutenant governor. Mr. Brant responds with like "argument," observing that Uncle George was once a candidate for governor. It gives the Freeman-Tribune great sorrow and chagrin to note the disquieting attitude of these two valiant old-time defenders of the once famous sashem of the erstwhile reservation in Iowa politics and it trusts that David and George will bury the hatchet before some of the treasured secrets of the old regime are laid bare and putrifying before the public gaze. The venerable editor of the Sioux City Journal and the sage of the Iowa City Republican are, it must be conceded, armed to the teeth with weapons that would exterminate each other if put to use, but forbearance ought to prevail and the state spared the exhibition of personal politics that might create a great big sensation.

If the policy of protection is a good thing, then the contemplated trade with Canada is a bad thing; and if the Canadian pact is a good thing for the whole country, then a continuance of the policy of protection represents antiquated foolishness. The question at issue relates to protection as an essential principle.—Sioux City Journal.

The Journal's reasoning is hardly logical. Protection, as exemplified by impost duties to relieve the domestic producer from competition that might destroy him, need not necessarily be maintained against countries where conditions are similar to conditions in the United States. There is no pauper labor in Canada. The people there are intelligent, thrifty, self-reliant and progressive. They live on a high plane and are consequently good consumers. It might be advantageous to enter into trade agreement with them while not advantageous to enter into like agreements with some of the countries of continental Europe. The United States government can retain protection as an essential principle without enforcing that principle against any particular people or in the case of any particular commodity. Every time the tariff is revised the free list is altered and usually broadened. Yet the principle of protection is retained.

CORPORATION CONNECTIONS.

Senator Kenyon, speaking in defense of Attorney General Wickersham the other day, said that "it does not destroy a man's conscience to be attorney for a corporation."—As a general proposition we believe the senator is wrong. Attorneys who spend years in defending corporations and looking after the legal interests of big combinations are influenced more or less by environment. The late Joseph W. Blythe is an illustration of this. Mr. Blythe was one of the most gracious of men, lovable and personally pure, yet he admitted, when Gov. Shaw offered to tender him the United States senatorship to fill the Gear vacancy, that his legal associations with the railroads unfitted him for service in the upper house of congress. What was true of Mr. Blythe in this connection is true of the majority of railroad attorneys. Yet there are exceptions. The record proves that some corporation attorneys who are called to positions of trust by the people have not had their conscience seared by their service for the corporations. Senator Kenyon himself is illustrative of this. So is Senator Cummins and Attorney General Wickersham. The late Tom Healy likewise demonstrated that his services as a railroad attorney did not influence him against public interests in matters political.