

The Freeman

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Official Paper of City and County

The thing from which England suffers just now more than any other evil is not the assertion of falsehoods but the endless and irrepressible repetition of half truths.—G. K. Chesterton.

Labor needs some new leaders. Samuel Gompers, at last report, was in hot pursuit of his breath.

If anyone hears or sees a rumor to the effect that Webster City is to have a new depot do not let it escape. We need two of 'em.

Iowa wouldn't feel sorry if the presidential contest would shape things so that Senator Cummins would be the standard bearer next year.

Joe Cannon now admits that he will never be president. Too bad the admission was not sprung prior to Thanksgiving, as it would have helped to properly observe the day.

What the republican party needs now is a U. S. Grant or a Napoleon. No use fooling along with McClellan.—Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

This sounds like a call for Roosevelt.

Nicholas Longworth, son-in-law of his father-in-law, says his father-in-law is not a candidate for president. This will be quite a relief to both Taft and LaFollette for a few days.

Detective Burns and the district attorney of Los Angeles are certainly onto their jobs. It is something to build a stone wall of evidence so high and so tight that Attorney Clarence Darrow cannot see over or through it.

Wm. Randolph Hearst has any letters that he has not yet read to the public now is a good time to spring them. The new president of Standard Oil, Mr. Archbold, used to be a good hand at furnishing this kind of copy.

The Des Moines Capital is wrong when it says Congressman Woods voted with the democrats on practically every tariff ripping proposition before congress. He didn't vote with Taft and the democrats on the Canadian reciprocity proposition.

Samuel Gompers cannot find words too severe to hurl at detectives. If Samuel is not more guarded in his comments he will force the country to believe, perhaps reluctantly, that he knew more about the McNamara outrages than he has pretended.

Iowa will never forgive Andrew Carnegie for failing to include some Iowan in his list of the twenty greatest men who ever lived. But Andy overlooked Caesar, Napoleon, Washington, Jefferson, Taft, Teddy and Tom Watson. There is some consolation in that.

A Kansas judge has just awarded a husband a divorce because his wife compelled him to go shopping with her. Just and upright judge. Woman is impossible of greater cruelty than this. Even the wife who makes her hubby go to church with her is not in the same class.

The United States government ought to protect its own citizens at home in the exercise of all civil rights before it becomes unduly excited over the protection of its citizens abroad. The first is as essential to a government of, by and for the people, as the second.

Just think of it, \$190,000 were wrung from union labor by its leaders to use in the defense of guilty men. And Clarence S. Darrow, general counsel for the defense, declares the money has nearly all been expended, and that, too, before the trial was fairly commenced. It is also said Mr. Darrow received a fee of \$100,000. How the great lawyer does love organized labor—at \$100,000 per love. A few more stunts of this character will open the eyes of

honest laboring men and they will not then be so easily fooled by designing men "higher up."

Col. Roosevelt is not supporting anyone in particular for president and during the past few months has shown a remarkable self-possession in keeping quiet with his mouth, but his pen and his think tank have been quite active. No one has yet ventured the prediction that the colonel will not be in the thick of the fight before the campaign is over.

Col. Young, who is something of a road expert, declares that good dirt roads are the best. Excellent roads can be made of sand, dirt and gravel at slight cost compared to the benefits derived. Michigan is expending millions of dollars on concrete highways, and they will probably prove profitable investments, but five miles of good gravel roads can be built at the cost of one mile of concrete.

Deputy Game Warden Marsan of Fort Dodge has caused the arrest of ten persons for violations of the game laws during the past month and each was fined \$25. There is more disposition on the part of the public to assist in convicting persons guilty of violating the game laws than ever before. This means better and easier enforcement. The "game hog," in the estimation of the public, is now only a few notches behind the bootlegger.

Senator Kenyon called upon President Taft the other day and asked the appointment of Judge Deemer to the vacancy on the United States supreme bench, and of Thomas C. Dawson of Council Bluffs as ambassador to Brazil. The fact that Senator Kenyon is in favor of Judge Deemer, who was the candidate for senator whom the Iowa standpaters in the legislature who would not support a progressive brought out against Kenyon, is a sample of the magnanimous spirit of Iowa's junior senator. Posies do sometimes grow on the political garden walls, after all.

The grafters must go. They go hard, but go they must. According to press reports Gov. Carroll has been requested to direct the attorney general to begin ouster proceedings against certain members of county boards of supervisors on the ground that they have been favoring bridge contractors. The Freeman-Tribune is pleased to note the growing sentiment against all forms of graft in public works. The state, the county and the city have all been more or less victimized by dishonest contractors. The Freeman-Tribune, however, is glad to believe there is nothing of the kind going on in this county. The people could protect themselves reasonably well if they would exercise more care in the selection of officials. But too often the electorate is induced to support a candidate because he is a "good fellow," "a good mixer," a free spender, etc., though he may have little to commend him as a proper person for public position of trust, while the man who has the ability, the honesty and other elements of real merit is voted down because he lacks the knack of making friends by a hand-shake or of winning support with a smile.

The Freeman-Tribune believes that Judge Bordwell did right in sentencing J. B. McNamara to the penitentiary for life instead of sending him to the gallows. McNamara, of course, deserves death. No punishment would be too severe in his case. But his confession is of untold value to the country. Many honest laboring men, members of unions, were led to believe in his innocence and had the trial gone on and McNamara been convicted these honest men would have still thought that it was a plot of capital and that McNamara died a martyr to labor. The confession has cleared the atmosphere and revealed to laboring men all over the country that they have been cruelly deceived by the very men in whom they had implicit confidence. The Freeman-Tribune is not prepared to say that such leaders as Gompers and Mitch-

ell doubted the innocence of McNamara, but men in their positions had no right to inflame those in their confidence by declaring that the McNamaras were being persecuted in the name of labor and that it was all a conspiracy of capital. The closing chapter in the trial at Los Angeles will be of incalculable benefit to both labor and capital, being really worth to labor many times the amount of the purse—\$190,000—raised by union men to defend the McNamaras.

"Our Dumb Animals" is urging all humane people to wage war upon the steel trap method of capturing animals, which it declares is a "wretched relic of savagery." And it is right. What agony the poor little musk rat, the mink or the weasel must suffer when the cruel jaws of the steel trap snap around the foot and hold the animal fast until some cruel man comes to murder it in its helplessness. Animals caught in steel traps have been known to gnaw a leg off in order to secure liberty. An illustration of the work of the unspeakably cruel trap is illustrated as follows: "The owners of two dogs had missed the animals for eight days and had about given up hope of ever seeing them again. Great was their surprise, then, to see their pets return home, but in such a condition as would have appealed to the sympathies of any human being. In an emaciated condition and each with one of its hind legs nearly severed from the body, the poor beasts presented a pitiable appearance. It is assumed that while prowling around, the dogs must have got caught in some trap from which they failed to extricate themselves. Their sad condition was called to the attention of the agent of the humane society, who said it was best to do away with them as they were beyond any kind of assistance."

Name them. The Webster City Freeman says that "the standpat voter looks mighty good to some progressive candidates who would not think of even considering a standpatter for any appointive office." Again will the Freeman name the candidate referred to.—Marion Register.

The Freeman-Tribune always likes to answer fair questions when asked in proper spirit. It had in mind Congressman Woods of this district. Mr. Woods received practically the solid standpat vote of Hamilton county at the primary both times he was a candidate, yet when the question of postmaster came up in Webster City and other towns throughout the county he and his friends insisted that none but progressives, and Woods progressives at that, should be candidates. Yet they tried to make the people believe Mr. Woods would appoint any one whom the people wanted. The Freeman-Tribune has no fault to find with Mr. Woods for appointing his friends, but it does condemn him and his friends for undertaking to play the public for a set of chumps. If the people were to name the postmaster why didn't Mr. Woods consent to the plan suggested by Candidate Rube McFerren and his friends. Mr. McFerren and his supporters asked for a primary, in which all republicans could take part and record a vote. But Mr. Woods turned the proposition down and then pretended to let the people name the postmaster by letter, he being the sole judge and arbitrator.

The hardest blow that ever struck union labor hit it full between the eyes when the McNamara brothers confessed to one of the blackest crimes ever perpetrated upon American soil. All will admit that the rank and file of the labor unions are law abiding, patriotic citizens, but they have followed their leaders with a blind devotion that is something of a reflection upon their judgment. Men who have joined unions from purely selfish motives have been able to deceive the average member and have preyed upon them in various ways. However, union men all over the country are now taking the right course. They are denouncing in unmeasured terms

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the men who have duped them in the past and it is evident that the hypocrites in the union will not find it such easy sledding hereafter. Union labor, like a political party, a lodge, a church or other organization, will be judged more by its leadership than by anything else. It does not mean that the lodge or the church or the party is corrupt simply because unscrupulous men worm their way into leadership. But the lodge, the church or the political party that does not purge itself of bad leadership when advised of the situation must take the consequences. Union labor will come out of this ordeal clarified and improved. The great tolling masses who compose its membership will assert themselves and the organization will be regenerated and uplifted. In the long run, the Freeman-Tribune sincerely believes, the staggering blow delivered union labor by the McNamara confession will prove its greatest blessing.

Geo, but Montie of the Freeman-Tribune is sore. He nearly called our honorable congressman, Frank P. Woods, some bad names in one of his last week's issues of the paper. It must surely be that our friend "Montie" was disappointed in getting that much-sought-for Webster City postoffice. The Wasp believes Mr. Woods has the right to recommend anyone to fill the postoffice of this district that he chooses without being classed with the "bulldozer" and "bluffer." Frank P. Woods has a record of character which is hard to be beaten by any political office holder.—Williams Wasp.

Wonder what's the matter of Walterick of the Wasp. He already has an itching for the Williams postoffice and possibly thinks the way to get it is to misrepresent the Freeman-Tribune. "Montie" can say for the delectation of Walterick that he made no suggestions whatsoever to Mr. Woods in regard to the postmastership of Webster City and that he wasn't disappointed or even surprised. This whine about Woods being above criticism is getting tire-

some, especially when made by those who want office in a town almost before they gain a residence. The Freeman-Tribune resents the implication that it called Mr. Woods bad names or referred to him as a bulldozer and bluffer. Of course Mr. Woods has the right to recommend anyone he wants to, but apparently Walterick and a few other narrow-minded and blind followers of Mr. Woods think no one has a right to criticize his recommendations. The chief reason to complain at Mr. Woods' method is the pretention of "letting the people decide" and then recommending whomsoever he pleases. The Freeman-Tribune is not in the habit of attacking anyone's personal character, the insinuations of the Wasp to the contrary notwithstanding.

MR. WOODS SPEAKS UP.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—Special to the Freeman-Tribune: Hon. Frank P. Woods, member of congress from this district, has finally made a statement of where he stands upon the matter of presidential choice. While conversing with a friend last night the question was considered and in response to the importunities of the friend Mr. Woods said: "I will say frankly to you that I propose to support for president until the convention makes a nomination, Mr." Just then the fire whistle sounded and your correspondent could not catch the name of the candidate whom Mr. Woods will support, but I am satisfied he will support him whatever he may be. I hope this information will be as satisfactory to your readers as could be expected under the circumstances.

"Move On."
Burlington Hawkeye: It has long been the custom to make suspects, vagrants, paupers, sick people and all who threaten to become dependent upon the community "move on." If some of these undesirables strike a town, some of the officers get busy and the unwelcome guests get a little money and transportation to

some other town and are bidden to "move on." The custom is universal. Burlington does it, and she rather congratulates herself upon the fact, that it is a practical and economical way of doing business, always except when some neighboring community unloads a small patient upon Burlington. Then we grow indignant, if we have to take care of that patient and cannot compel him to "move on." Perhaps there was a time when nothing better could be done. But perhaps it might be in order to suggest that after all, this is not the best method of handling the trouble, and it is not even the cheapest. For it costs much money just to keep the undesirable "moving on." There ought to be colonies or farms or institutions, where these unfortunates could be sent, and where they could get proper care if unable to work and where they could work and earn a little something to tide them over, if they are able. The "move on" idea is wrong. And the system would not be countenanced, if it had not grown to be a habit with communities. There are so many organizations that concern themselves with the betterment of the race and with the uplift and with the fight upon all sorts of evils that threaten society, that it is safe to assume that the "move on" will be moved and gone away with in time. It is even possible that we may get regular tramp colonies, where a fair percentage of the wanderers may be made over into steady workers. It does not pay this "move on" rule, and there are a number of other good reasons against it, even better reasons. But in this ultra practical age, the first will suffice to damn the "move on."

Stockholders Meeting.
The annual meeting of the stockholders of The Farmers National Bank for the election of directors for the ensuing year will be held at their banking room in Webster City, Iowa, on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1912, between the hours of 1 and 4 p. m.
29f4 J. H. Shipp, Cashier.

Stockholders Meeting.
The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank for the election of directors for the ensuing year will be held at their banking house in Webster City, Iowa, on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1912, between 2 and 4 p. m.
29f4 Warren Pyle, Cashier.