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A New Constitution.

Several of the best country newspapers in the state are urging the calling of a constitutional convention. Count the INTELLIGENCER against it. There seems to be no really valid argument for a new constitution. At the last election eight amendments to the present constitution were adopted by various majorities, showing that the people can be trusted to make any changes that seem to be necessary. This being the case what is the need of re-writing that instrument?

In the first place, our present constitution was adopted just after the restoration of home rule in Missouri and the return of the democratic party to power. Among the delegates who drafted it were many of the best and most eminent men this state has afforded. The constitution was a liberal one and provided a fair and easy means for amendment. During almost thirty years our court decisions have construed nearly every phrase in it, adding incalculably to its value and fixedness. Why tear it up and draft a new one?

A consideration of the experience of our sister state, Kentucky, ought to go far toward allaying any restless desire for change that may exist among us. The Kentucky revisionists had a better case than ours. The old constitution in that state had slavery clauses in it and dated back before the war to the times of Garrett Davis and his little crowd, who believed that wisdom would die with them. So it was enacted in that constitution—the constitution of 1846—that amendments or a new constitution could be adopted only by a two-thirds vote of all the people of voting age in the state, to be ascertained by a special census. This was quite as ingenious as the method of Lycurgus to render the constitution perpetual. After numerous futile efforts to pass amendments or call a new convention, the supreme court finally winked at a very questionable bill to dodge the special census clause. It was enacted that a vote be taken on the proposition to call a constitutional convention and that the judges at each election precinct should make up from memory the census of their several precincts! Judges were carefully selected according to the known badness of their memories and their known favorableness to constitutional revision. The proposition carried. Then every ism and every ist began to stir. It was at a time when the populist had just made his appearance in Kentucky and he was multiplying like the army worm. The old greenbacker was not dead, and he now took on a galvanic activity. The single taxer appeared and the double taxer and the franchise taxer and the no taxer at all. The revenue laws under the old constitution had been a little singular and not altogether just, but property values had been accommodated to them. All sorts of new revenue theories began to abound. Within three months after the vote to call the convention there arose more political parties in Kentucky than there were tribes in Palestine when Joshua crossed the Jordan. The delegates were elected and the convention met. It was the most fanatic herd of political miscellany ever brought together in the grand old commonwealth. There were some eminent and patriotic men, among them J. Proctor Knott, who wished merely to strike out a few old clauses and insert new ones. There were about fifteen agents of the L. & N. Railway company who were ready complacently to trade off their votes upon every other proposition for certain corporation franchises and revenue clauses. There were some long haired and bewhiskered fanatics, and some plain honest men, and some plain dishonest men. In less than a week the sessions of the convention began to resemble a college cane rush more than the deliberations of a legislative assembly. From sheer weariness the convention finally came to a close and submitted to a vote of the people a constitution which it is safe to say was not satisfactory to anybody, and which was adopted only out of dread of another convention. The bill so far rendered is as follows:

One constitutional convention, including the cost of two submissions, \$400,000; two seven-month sessions of the legislature to accommodate the laws, especially the revenue laws, to the new constitution, \$900,000; codifying the laws, \$40,000; while the cost to the people of unsettled precedents is continuous, and was estimated by those who were best able to judge at from \$5,000,000 to \$20,000,000. It can be positively shown that in this constitutional convention were born all the political whimsies which finally brought about the disruption of the democratic party in the state, the triumph of Bradley, and the assassination of Goebel. Perhaps the most interesting and amusing result of this convention was that it got the L. & N. railroad—that staid old Dutch concern—to meddling in politics. Now, playing politics in Kentucky comes high, and in ten years the L. & N. went into the hands of a receiver. Oh no, let's get along with our old constitution for a year or two yet. England has done very well for hundreds of years without any written constitution at all, and the United States government has never referred to its since the war.

The Political Boss.

Walter Williams in a recent issue of his paper, the Columbia Herald, gives a pleasing description of Ed Butler as he appeared in the preliminaries of his trial now going on in the Boone county capital. The ward boss has been a favorite theme for years, and various theories of evolution have been suggested to account for the rise of this singular new power in municipal politics. The essential error in the theories proposed seems to lie in the word evolution. The ward boss, like the anarchist, is to be regarded as a reversion, a revival and adaptation of an old type rather than the development of a new one. He is the feudal baron born out of time. His title to rule dates far back beyond all theories of primogeniture and succession to the time when clan chiefs were selected as the leaders of wild flocks and herds are selected—by the spontaneous recognition of innate fitness. The chief implies the clansman, and this is where the observations of writers upon this interesting theme have fallen short. If the feudal leader is more in evidence now-a-days it is because the retainer is too. And a proper object of curious and scientific inquiry is whether civil and political liberty is tending to the paradoxical result of stratifying society in our great cities, and of promoting the revival of primordial types as an incidence of manhood suffrage and political equality.

Similar observations might be made in regard to anarchy—a subject upon which a vast deal of nonsense has been uttered and written of late. No theories as to the cause of the growth of this dogma are worthy of a moment's notice which are not based upon sound ethnic and anthropological considerations. Anarchy is not a philosophy. The anarchist is born, not made. If he exists to greater numbers now than formerly, it is because poverty, immorality, physical degeneration and social stratification has brought about psychic reversion to a type that was once normal, when everything was everybody's.

Manifestly subjects of this kind are too extensive for a brief editorial. But going back to the ward boss and his retainers, it may be urged in evidence of their feudal origin that they have the same practical purposes, the same feudal organization, the same notions of personal allegiance. The boss comes from the stock of an un-mixed race in which feudalism has prevailed—usually Gaelic. The tie which binds this modern vassal to his liege is not like that which bound the imperialistic Athenian to Pericles, or the British Whig to Pitt, or the American whig to Clay. It is no conscience of ideas, no admiration of intellectual abilities. The tie which binds this modern henchman to his boss is the revival of an ethnic principle, acknowledged not intellectually but as a psychic impulse.

On last Monday Ed Butler landed in Columbia with a retinue that almost swamped the hotels. He probably never heard of Orgetorix or the thousands of feudal nobles who have tried to impress courts with a peaceful show of force, but he makes no secret of believing that this and the political victory he won for his son in St. Louis two weeks ago will go far toward securing his acquittal. And it may. No stratum of society has been entirely refined of the dregs of its feudal origin, as is shown by the rosters at every football game from Dan to Beerstoba.

The Methodist Sunday school made \$37 on its rammage sale.

National Reciprocity.

Among the INTELLIGENCER's exchanges is the National Reciprocity Magazine, published in Chicago and distinctly marked on the back *non partisan*. This magazine got on the exchange list in compliance with a written request some months ago. Probably there are thousands and thousands of country papers receiving this magazine monthly. An idea of its mission may be obtained from a consideration of the following summary of one of the leading articles on reciprocity with Cuba:

The annual consumption of sugar in the United States is about 2,536,950 tons. Of this, Hawaii can produce 300,000 tons; Porto Rico, 100,000 tons; Louisiana and Texas, 300,000; domestic beets, 125,000 tons—a total of 825,000 tons, or about one-third of what is annually consumed in the United States. Cuba has never produced over 1,000,000 tons, so that if we were to admit Cuban raw sugar (for no sugar is refined in Cuba) free of tariff duty, we would still have to look to Germany for one-third of the refined sugar we need annually. The writer adds: "If Cuban sugar is admitted free, the American sugar industry will still be protected by a margin of foreign importation amounting to more than 700,000 tons. I have endeavored to show that the proposed reduction (50 per cent) of the American tariff on Cuban sugar will not injure any existing American interest in those lines of production."

By "the American sugar industry" the writer doubtless means Havemeyer's sugar trust, which is said to own every refinery in the United States. A reduction of 50 per cent of tariff duties on Cuban sugar would be a reduction of 50 per cent to Havemeyer on raw material without in the least affecting the price of refined sugar to the American consumer. Now this is all very good in its way—but it is a very, very republican way. It will relieve the Cubans, but the American consumer will continue to be taxed and the tax will go to Mr. Havemeyer instead of to the United States treasury.

In the last congress the "insurgent" republican senators agreed to vote for a 20 per cent reduction on Cuban sugar if a like reduction was made on refined sugar, so that Havemeyer might not be the only beneficiary of the reduction, but Roosevelt and the rest of his party would not hear to it. They said it would ruin the beet sugar men, who produce less than one-twentieth of the sugar consumed in the United States, but who all live in republican states. They were not so sympathetic in regard to the American cane sugar men, who produce more than one-tenth of the sugar consumed in the country but who happen to live in democratic states. All this hypocritical talk about relieving Cuba is intended to veil the design of beginning the farming out our provincial revenues for the creation of a political corruption fund. The Romans did the same thing two thousand years ago.

The Packing House Merger.

Reports of the consolidation of the large packing houses of the country have been in circulation for some months. This week what seems to be pretty reliable information is given out as to the details of the merger which are so similar to those of all the other industrial combines that a brief analysis of them may be worth while.

The total value of all the plants in the combine, including "good will," "established trade," etc., estimated on the basis of earning capacity and not on original cost, is put at \$200,000,000. Preferred stock to this amount will be issued to the present owners in the ratio of their present holdings. Two hundred million dollars of common stock in addition will be sold, and \$100,000,000 of bonds will also be put upon the market to raise a working capital. In other words, by the sale of the common stock the present owners will get their money out of their plants; by the sale of the bonds they will get their working capital out of their business, and by the retention of the preferred stock they will still maintain their ownership of it.

It is expected that the perfection of a monopoly in an indubitable article of consumption, the strengthening of its claim for discrimination in freight rates, and the saving of expenses of competition in both buying and selling, will enable the consolidated concern to pay such dividends on the common stock as to insure its sale. If not, then the earnings of the preferred stock will be sacrificed until the common stock and bonds are placed.

When the merger has been com-

pletely effected, the result will be that every holder of common stock and every holder of bonds will be interested in preventing legislation to suppress rebates, discrimination in freight rates, provide for the reduction of tariff on imported cattle or dressed meats, or otherwise interfere with this monopoly. And it will be found that legislators and judges are among the holders of these stocks and bonds. When it is considered that similar monopolies cover the production of iron, glass, lumber, machinery and more than three hundred of the common necessities of life and trade, it will be seen that the correction of trust evils is going to be a very difficult matter.

Hobson Again.

An associated press dispatch says that Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson lectured last week before a teachers' institute at Doylestown, Pa., and that at a reception and dance which followed, he made confession to one of the teachers with whom he was dancing that he was very sorry he had allowed so many girls to kiss him. Nothing so coy and so roguish as this has been credited to one of his gender in many a long day. And withal there is a pleasing tinge of green in it. The captain evidently belongs to the new crop of fine-bragging youths which has sprung up since Thackeray went up and down vainly fair immolating his hecatombs. There is something so fresh and unspiced about Captain Hobson. A day in April never came more sweet. He is not like a soiled leaf torn from the pages of mediæval romance, which a prosaic age has discredited. Nothing could discredit Captain Hobson. Buoyant, as self cultured as a child of four years, he falls in love with the public at first sight and straightway makes a confidante of it in the precious, precious secrets of his heart. Roosevelt has gagged Funston, badgered Miles into silence, and squelched Schley, but he has never worked up nerve enough to tackle Hobson. Yet Hobson must distress Mr. Roosevelt. To be outdone by a mere lieutenant in the navy whose only claim to distinction is having blown the bottom out of a collier and, on being picked up, of having taken a swig at Cervera's demijohn is too much for a man of Mr. Roosevelt's temperament to endure—he who led the charge at San Juan Hill, has busted bronchos, shaken wild cats out of mountain pines, killed bears with his hunting knife, and mocked the lion when he roared for prey!

Bank Statements.

Statements of several of the banks of this city and of the county will be found in this issue of the INTELLIGENCER. They make interesting reading for those who know how to interpret them, and show not only the sound condition of the banks but the abundance of money in the possession of depositors. It will be seen that the banks are well rid of real estate, except their banking houses, and that their assets are singularly clean. It will be seen too that the banks have rather more money than usual on hand, which indicates that business is not being done so much on borrowed capital. The soundness of the financial institutions of this county has always been a source of pride to the people, and is due not only to the character of those who have these institutions in charge, but to the business conservatism of the people who patronize them.

A company has been incorporated under the name of the Southern California Trust Company for the purpose of acquiring all the lands in the citrus belt. The company will practically abolish the middleman by being itself both grower and dealer. It will establish local depots in all the cities and conduct its business like the packing houses and the Standard Oil Company.

The latest and most accurate estimate of the democratic majority in Missouri made by the secretary of state is 45,244. This looks like the people of the state sympathize with the "doctors" pretty vigorously.

What to do in cases of accidents, before the physician arrives, is told in a compact little volume "Accidents, Illnesses and Emergencies" issued by the Medical Department of The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. This book is sent on request to those who address the Home Office of the Company, Nassau Cedar, William and Liberty Streets, New York City. The book makes suggestions about diet, ventilation, disinfectants, draughts, and gives hints on eye and to the injured and the general care of health.

Letter From Hobart, I. T.

Your paper arrives regularly every week so I keep very well posted about what is going on in old Lafayette, and no doubt but that many of its readers would like to hear from Hobart and adjacent country. Hobart is a magic city built in the center of a beautiful plateau with graded streets, sidewalks and street crossings. The city is 1528 feet above sea level on the gently rolling foot hills of the Wichita range of mountains (eight miles to the south) which affords protection from the hot winds of Mexico, and far enough south to be free from the severe blizzards of the north.

At the opening of this country on August 6th, 1901, it was a mere whistling post on the R. I. railroad, but today it has a population of 5,000 industrious and progressive citizens who are operating successfully seven lumber yards, nine hardware stores, five dry goods stores, twenty groceries, five furniture stores, a host of racket, variety and general stores, three weekly and two daily newspapers, four national banks, seven churches, two school buildings with ten departments and five hundred children enrolled, one city and one long distance telephone, electric light plant, two cotton gins, oil mill, flour mill, ice plant, two railroads and the third one in contemplation, several wholesale houses and many other things that go to make up a town. The foundation is ready for a thirty thousand dollar court house besides a good jail.

A great deal of cotton is raised here. I counted eight hundred and fifty bales in one yard last week, and it is estimated that seven or eight thousand bales will be shipped from Hobart this fall. Property is increasing in value very fast. A vacant lot on the southwest corner of the public square brought \$5,500 some ten days ago which during the lot sale brought \$1,900. Several rock and brick business houses that would be a credit to any city have already been completed and others are under headway to take the place of the wooden structures built when the town first started. There are two brick yards here and they find a ready sale for their output.

The country is very productive and settled up by a good class of people. I find a great many Missourians here, and usually they are well pleased and also have great confidence in Hobart's future and the productiveness of the soil.

Four sections of land in each township were reserved for school purposes and are leased out three years at a time, so we will have the advantage of a great many states when we get our public school system fully established. Most of the districts have already built their school houses and their schools have started. We have only to pay taxes here on our personal property and our improvements, the land not being assessed until we prove up on it, our present tax being 6 cents owing to the fact that not more than two-thirds of the people were on their claims when the assessment took place and but little improvements made.

We have but one negro in the county and but few Indians. Lone Wolf and his tribe have their reservation southwest of Hobart some three miles. I meet and shake hands with Lone Wolf in Hobart often. He dresses in citizens clothes, wears his hair shingled, talks very good English and is a Baptist preacher.

The greatest drawback to this section of the country is the fuel, and coal costs us 30 cents per bushel. The Wichita mountains are rich in minerals, gold, silver and copper are found in paying quantities. Everybody here is clamoring for statehood, and as both political parties are pledged I think the time is not far distant when Oklahoma will be admitted. My claim is five miles north of Hobart and five miles southwest of Rovey on the Frisco, and a new railroad will soon be built by Barton, seven miles northwest of here, so you see I will be in the center between three railroad towns, and it is generally conceded that this is the best section of country in the new opening. Claims in this vicinity sell from two to five thousand dollars and are advancing all the time.

Well, the election in Kiawa county is over and the result was very gratifying to the democrats. The victory was won in spite of a most stubborn and persistent fight. The republicans were backed by all the influences of the territorial and national administrations. They had all the advantage and did not hesitate to use it to advance their cause. But when it came to counting the democrats of this county outnumbered them about five hundred. Judge James Harrison, formerly of old Lafayette, was elected our representative. The victory has sealed the fate of the republicans in Kiawa county and placed it in the democratic column. The republicans lost heart early in the afternoon and practically gave up long before the polls were closed. My date to prove up is December 20th, then I will return to old Missouri and share news with my old friends on a more general case of health.

D. L. MITCHELL.

THE CATAMOUNT.

Most Savage Creature in the Woods,
Says an Old Hunter.

"When it comes to savage creatures I will put the catamount against anything to be found in the woods," said an old hunter to a New Orleans Times-Democrat reporter, "and I am sure I would come out in the lead with distance to spare. The catamount is a ferocious member. Once corner one of these creatures and you will have your hands full to come out with your life. In the first place, they are well-equipped for fighting at close range. Nature has provided them with long, curved and pointed claws and extraordinarily sharp teeth. Their claws cut like a knife, and if they could use a scythe they could not meet with more success when it comes to mowing a pack of dogs down. Dogs, for this reason, fight shy of catamounts. They never let the trail get too hot, because they want to keep a reasonable distance behind in the chase. The fact is, I have known dogs to quit the trail when it was fresh enough to indicate that the distance between them and the catamount could be measured in seconds. They will scatter and scamper around to the sides of the trail, resorting to the same circular course they describe when they suddenly lose a trail. They do not care to surprise a catamount by rushing upon him suddenly. They know what it will mean to them. Even pups, out on their first chase, seem to be wise enough instinctively to give the catamount a wide range. They are desperate fighters, and in the season when food is scarce, and when they become lean and lank from foraging, they are especially desperate. I remember an experience I had a few years ago while floating down the St. Francis river in a dugout, some 40 miles up from the mouth of the river. I had a friend in the dugout with me. Suddenly we heard a limb above us was snatched as if relieved of a heavy weight, and in an instant something fell in the river at the side of the canoe. It was a catamount. The animal had tried to land in the canoe for the purpose of attacking us, and had leaped from a limb which hung out over the river at an elevation of 30 feet. There was no provocation except the innate desperation of the beast, for we had no idea that a catamount was in 10 miles of where we were quietly floating down the river. We killed him. They are bad members, and you don't have to corner them in order to get a fight."

LONGEVITY OF MONARCHS.
European Rulers Live to Greater Age Now Than Formerly.
If the risks of the trade of kinship are considerable, as the late King Humbert of Italy used to remark, the increase of the average longevity of monarchs during the past century is also considerable. Apropos of the death of the Belgian queen in her sixty-sixth year, it is worth recalling that in the year 1818 Europe possessed 51 sovereigns, of whom only 11 had passed their sixtieth year. Of these one alone had reached the age of 70. In 1900, although meanwhile the number of crowned heads had been reduced to 40, the list of sexagenarians was nearly trebled. There were at that date 29 sovereigns who had attained 60 and over. Of these seven had overstepped 70, five of them were 80, and one, the present Pope Leo XIII., was a nonagenarian.—London Express.

FORMOSANS CUT THEIR HAIR.
Event Marks an Epoch in Their Progress Toward Civilization.
The Formosans are cutting their hair, whereat, says the London Express, there is great jubilation in Japanese government circles. It must be understood that to say "Get your hair cut!" to a native of Formosa was formerly the worst form of insult. "Almost as soon as he would have cut off his head. Now, however, as a sign of submission to Japanese rule, and in conformity with civilized custom, he is beginning to shear off his superfluous hair growth. Every week the governor of Formosa telegraphs to Tokio the additional number of natives who have cut their hair, just as Lord Kitchener telegraphed from time to time the number of Boers captured.

Coal Mining in India.
Coal-mining in India is very different from coal-mining in Europe. The very simplicity of it has been a hindrance to progress. There is no gas; the pits are all shallow; one of 300 feet is considered quite a deep pit; and many are entered by inclines, which people much prefer, as they can stroll in and out at their pleasure.