

The Intelligencer.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER YEAR
IN ADVANCE.

Entered at the Lexington postoffice as
second class mail matter.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5, 1903.

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THE STAR'S "ONLIES."

The Kansas City Star of August 31, in an editorial plea for civic righteousness says:

"But this point of difference between the scandals at Washington and those at Jefferson City has been wholly overlooked by the machine orators in Missouri. In Washington the full power of the government is directed toward an investigation of the wrongdoing in the departments, while in Missouri no effort has been spared by the administration at Jefferson City and the politicians who train with the state government to palliate the crime of boodling, and to cripple the man who is fighting single handed to maintain the honor of Missouri."

Democrats of the rank and file had probably never realized before the depravity of party politics here in comparison with the strenuous righteousness of the band of ministering angels who from the sacred precincts of Washington watch over the affairs of the nation. They are ignorant; they do not realize the zeal and earnestness with which Roosevelt, Payne, Mark Hanna, Tom Platt, Steve Elkins, and Matt Quay have been yanking thieves and grafters out of the post office department and the department of agriculture and flinging them in heaps like filthy rags in the dungeons about Washington. Think of the thousands of victims of Roosevelt's relentless persecution sighing away their lives in darkness, and of the trembling consternation with which the poor Indian Territory grafters await their impending doom! In a few days they will all be corralled in a barbed wire inclosure and fed on cactus and alkali water until federal prisons can be built to accommodate them. But in Missouri every democratic office holder is a grafter—but one. That one has been "fighting single-handed to maintain the honor of Missouri," if not to emulate the example of the immortal Roosevelt. No wonder the Star is so fervently earnest in urging a ticket of its own careful and conscientious selection upon the democratic party. This ticket so far contains but three names, but they are all "onlies:"

For governor,—Joseph W. Folk, the only honest democratic official in Missouri (same issue, 6th page.)

For lieutenant-governor,—Rev. Clayton Brooks, the only preacher of civic righteousness in Missouri (same issue, 2nd page.)

For railroad commissioner,—Rube Oglesby, the only man of right spirit towards the railroads in Missouri (same issue, 2nd page.)

Except for the exalted character of the Star, known and approved among all men, it might be suspected that it has designs of running the St. Louis circuit attorney out of the state. Mr. Folk seems to be a modest man. He has gone on doing his duty to the best of his ability apparently never suspecting that he is the only honest man in the commonwealth. If the Star should succeed in persuading him of the loneliness of his eminence he might flee into exile with his family and leave to Missouri no refuge from the doom of Sodam. If the Star really loves Mr. Folk and the democratic party, why is it not content with speaking him fair as a fine, conscientious, active official, like scores of others, who having been faithful over a few things, like scores of others, is deserving to be made ruler over many things, like scores of others. If the Star and the other Metropolitan papers would cease to boom Mr. Folk as an "only" and allow him to take pot luck with a number of other men of excellent records, the coming campaign might be the most amiable in the world. But perhaps they don't want to be amiable.

The Indian Territory Inquiry gives every superficial evidence of being as great a fraud as the post office investigation. Nobody believes for an instant that anything will be done beyond accepting the voluntary resignation of a few local officials. Yet everybody knows that robbery and grafting have been as widespread, as notorious, as oppressive, and as infamous as the carpet bag rule in the South after the war. But this thing will not even embarrass the republicans.

THE STATE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Missouri Editors Met at St. Louis and Held Convention.

The annual meeting of the Missouri Press Association was held at the Administration Building on the World Fair ground, near St. Louis, on August 27th and 28th. About 150 editors were in attendance, and they brought their wives and daughters with them to the member of 150, making the largest meeting that has been held within the past ten years. The general headquarters of the editors was at the Laclede hotel.

Some months ago the executive committee of the Press Association decided to hold the next meeting at Put-in-Bay, Ohio, on July 25-26, but at the request of the World's Fair managers the time and place were changed, as the managers desired to have the Missouri editors look at the wonderful work that is being done, and then give their readers the benefit of their visit.

Thursday morning at nine o'clock, a train of street cars was backed up in front of the Laclede hotel, and the editors and their guests were taken to the Exposition grounds. A short walk took them to the Administration building, where the meeting was called to order by Vice-President Wilson, the president, Mr. Ellis being sick. After the usual opening exercises, an address of welcome was delivered by Hon. D. R. Francis, president of the Exposition. We cannot attempt even a synopsis of his speech, but it was full of facts and figures regarding the great benefits which the managers of the exposition expect to accrue to Missouri and to the city of St. Louis by reason of the exposition. He thought that the state had already received the full value of her appropriation in the increased value of lands; and would continue to receive benefits for years in the flow of immigrants, the increasing population of towns and cities, the raising of values on real estate, and the advertising of the agricultural, mineral and other advantages.

The roll-call showed about 125 editors present at the morning meeting. The acting president appointed the usual committees. Applications for membership were received from twenty-four editors, all of whom were elected to membership. The programme called for essays on various subjects relating to editing and publishing a newspaper. These essays were unusually thoughtful productions, and were well received by the large audience. Among the more interesting papers was one by Mr. Walter Williams, recently editor of the Columbia Herald, now superintendent of the department of publicity. He is always interesting and instructive, and told of his trip abroad, his receptions, his successes and his trials. He told of a Spanish editor who announced that "Mr. Walter Williams has purchased a large tract of land west of the Mississippi river, and will celebrate the event in 1904." He sent a correction to the editor, and the next day the paper appeared with a more ridiculous statement than the first.

At the close of the morning session the editorial party was taken to luncheon. This luncheon was served in a large room in one wing of the Administration building.

There was plenty of room for all, and a bountiful supply of food, which consisted of beef, ham, mutton, chicken, tomatoes, pickles, bread butter, coffee, canteloupes, ice cream, etc. After luncheon there were several short speeches by officials of the exposition. After this, the party returned to the hall where business of the meeting was resumed. All the programme of the day was finished by 3:30 o'clock when the session adjourned for the day. The editors again became the guest of the World's fair management. A train of flat cars was drawn up in front of the Administration building and the large party took a trip around the grounds. This trip was about six miles long and twisted in and out among the buildings, and the visitors had a view of nearly all the buildings now under headway. Several magnificent structures are already complete and ready for occupancy; among them the magnificent Palace of Varied Industries, which covers 14 acres of land, and cost \$604,000; The Liberal Arts building which is 750 feet long by 525 feet wide, and cost \$460,000. The Iowa building, the Mexico building and many others are complete, or so near completion that only a few minor touches are necessary. The

trip through the grounds wound up at the Missouri building, where the party was handsomely entertained at a 5 o'clock luncheon. The building is not half done, and is not yet under roof. The editors held the first meeting ever held within the walls—they were the first persons to be entertained in this building, especially designed to entertain Missourians. They took informal possession, and notified the management of the Exposition that they would take formal possession about the 16th of May, 1904. On that day all the editorial associations in the United States will hold meetings in the various buildings on the exposition grounds. More than one hundred editors of leading foreign newspapers have, this early, notified the managers that they will be present. A world's congress of editors will be held.

About six o'clock the crowd started for town, special cars being ready for them. At seven o'clock a special train was in front of the Laclede, waiting to take the party to Delmar Gardens, a lovely spot not far from the exposition grounds. A very pleasant evening was spent there seeing the sights and witnessing a play called "The Telephone Girl," a burlesque written to exhibit any number of pretty girls and a few ugly men. One fellow could talk broken Dutch in a manner to paralyze a Hollander.

After reaching the hotel, as late as the hour was, a "Slumming Party" was quickly organized. With a couple of policemen as guides and protectors, quite a crowd of gentlemen and ladies visited "Hop Alley" and other slums. They saw Chinese and American "pipe fiends" in all stages of debauchery. We did not go, but those who went say they were well repaid for the trip, but they had no desire to repeat the experience.

Friday morning at nine o'clock the special train was ready and a quick trip was made to the grounds. The editorial party met at once at the hall in the Administration building, and the regular business was taken up. A resolution was introduced giving the committee on credentials power to revise the roll of membership, and to drop from the roll the names of those who were unworthy. This resolution was primarily aimed at John A. Lee and J. L. Page. In discussing the resolution the name of R. B. Speed was connected with the two above mentioned. This was a death-blow to the resolution. Many members who had been in favor of expelling Lee and Page began to oppose the measure as soon as Speed's name was mentioned. The resolution was finally referred to a committee on constitution and by-laws, and will probably never be heard from again. In the meantime Lee and Page will probably fail to pay their annual dues, and their names be quietly dropped from the rolls. Should they pay up, they will be expelled at the next meeting.

At the close of the morning session the editorial party was again taken to luncheon. The visitors had become pretty well acquainted with each other by this time, and an hour was spent very pleasantly at the table and all enjoyed the splendid lunch.

Friday afternoon's session was quickly finished, down to the election of officers. There had been some complaint about non-rotation of office, and amendments to the by-laws were introduced calling for rotation. The amendments were referred to the proper committee. When it came to a vote those persons who had held office for more than one year had no opposition, and not a vote was cast against any candidate. The rule is that the president steps out; the first vice-president is then made president; the second vice is made first; the third is made second, and a new name is put up for third vice. The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows: President, T. T. Wilson, of Tarkio; First Vice President, W. D. Thomas, of Fulton; Second Vice President, Lon Luther, of Lamont; Third Vice President, Ben F. Wood, Laredo; Recording secretary, John M. Sosey, Palmyra; Corresponding Secretary, R. M. White, Mexico, Treasurer, W. L. Thomas, St. Louis.

Returning to the city at five o'clock a visit was made by invitation to the office of the Post Dispatch. The whole party of 300 went to the top floor, where wines &c, were served, and then descended from floor to floor examining the linotypes, the stereotyping and other departments. They saw everything in active operation, and all admired the wonderful presses, the splendid machinery and the great harmony of the whole establishment. The colored supplement of the Sunday paper was being printed on one press,

and the regular afternoon edition was being run from another press. Expressions of admiration and wonder were heard from all, and the ladies were most enthusiastic in their praises.

At six o'clock the party were again taken to the sixth floor, a room about 40x125 feet, where a magnificent banquet was spread. It is needless to say that this increased the enthusiasm and admiration for the Post-Dispatch and its management.

Arrangements had been made for an excursion to Chicago, and a lake trip from Chicago to Milwaukee and return. A large number of the editorial party left St. Louis on Friday night to take the trip. Many returned to their homes, while many more spent Saturday in the city, visiting and shopping.

A visit of two days to the grounds of the great World's Fair of 1904 will do more to convince one of the immense magnitude of the enterprise than any amount of reading. We might tell our readers about the transportation building, which covers 15 acres of ground, and yet one look at the building would give the beholder a grander conception of its magnitude than a column of reading could do. We believe the great fair will eclipse all others, and every department will be greater than the corresponding department of any other fair. The immense buildings must be seen to be comprehended. As an educational feature nothing can approach the great exposition. A week's visit will be worth more than a month's visit abroad. All of the great things of earth will be there. It will probably be a century before anything of the kind will be again attempted in the United States, and our people cannot afford to miss this opportunity to enlarge their minds and hearts.

The work on the various buildings is progressing rapidly, and an army of men push the work from day to day. Some buildings are complete; others are half done; others have not been begun. Twelve hundred acres of ground are included in the site and while much ground is being graded, much more has been laid out in lovely lawns and rare flower beds. Visitors to the grounds pay a small admission fee, and thousands of people go out every day to see how the vast work is progressing. The officers of the exposition assured the editors that the exposition would be opened on the 30th day of April, 1904, and that complete exhibits would be found in every department.

W. G. MUSGROVE.

The official newspapers of England, France, Germany and Italy comment variously upon President Roosevelt's hasty order of the American fleet to Mediterranean waters on account of the supposed assassination of an American consul at Beirut. But the comments of these inspired organs are of little import, since the countries they speak for are actuated by such spites and jealousies among themselves as to make these expressions signify nothing to us. In this country, however, the effect of the incident has perhaps been more pronounced than any other single act of Roosevelt's administration. It has strengthened the growing conviction among those who have in hand the great business and financial interests of the country that Roosevelt is a heady and unsafe man. If there appeared any consistent way to recede from a position taken, it seems almost certain that the directing element in the republican party would order Roosevelt thrown overboard next year. Ten months ago Roosevelt was more uproariously popular than any previous president had been during his term of office. First he dunked and surrendered on the tariff reform issue of his own invention. This lost him the confidence of a host of liberal republicans. Then he committed the heady and spectacular follies of the Booker Washington and Indianola incidents. This lost him the confidence of conservative people of all parties everywhere and endeared him to none but fool friends. His violent and senseless criticism of his entertainment at St. Louis was attributed by nearly everybody to his wounded pride at Grover Cleveland's warmer reception and more thoughtful speech. The Beirut incident is taken in evidence of the president's jingoism, which causes him to be feared and distrusted by elements which would never have caviled at spinelessness or lack of convictions. Mr. Roosevelt will have at least two more chances to make blunders which may cost him the nomination next year—in the Panama canal matter and the "rubber" currency matter.



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CRENSHAW & YOUNG

According to a current newspaper report a plan is on foot to establish somewhere on the Missouri river an independent packing plant for the relief of stockmen, who are receiving lower prices for cattle every month while the price of dressed meats is being constantly advanced. The plan of establishing a competitive packing plant was discussed last fall at the National Cattlemen's convention, and it is said now that a capital stock of more than a million dollars has been subscribed. It is to be hoped that some relief may be obtained in this way, but the people's experience with co-operative and independent "bust the trust" concerns is not at all reassuring. In a few years the new concern will probably find that it is much more profitable to join the trust than to continue to fight it, and then the people will have to pay for the cost of the fight.

Last Friday Attorney-General Crow instituted quo warranto proceedings before the supreme court against the St. Louis Terminal Company. It is set forth in the petition that this company was formed by merging the interests of the old Terminal Railway Company (Eads Bridge), the Merchants' Bridge Company, and the Wiggins Ferry Company, and that it controls every available St. Louis entrance, both on incoming and outgoing traffic. If the allegations of the petition are true, the merger was effected in violation of the Missouri and trust law.

Mrs. Anna Gilkeson, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Georgia, left Friday morning for Kansas City to remain a few days before going to Wichita, Kansas, to reside with her son, Boyd, who is located there.