

Polygamy is matrimony at a ratio of 16 to 1.

Agent Shoeneft's salary has been raised from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year.

This is the year in Vinita when the republicans might just as well save campaign expenses.

The fall of Port Arthur is almost as slow coming about as the resignation of the Dawes commission.

The town of Holdenville is evidently again in tears. Another bunch of bootleggers have been captured.

Muskogee republicans are led in the municipal campaign this year by that veteran army officer, Gen. Ira L. Reeves.

Gen. Pleasant Porter is one on Clarence Douglas: the President has whispered to him the information that single statehood is a sure thing.

The Indian appropriation bill passed the senate Thursday, and with the amendments it carries will make it necessary to go to a conference committee of the two houses.

The proposition to build a large cold storage plant at this place is [meeting with plenty of encouragement among Vinita capitalists, and it now looks like it would be a success.

President Roosevelt's idea of publicity is bearing some fruit, at least, in the case of the merger of the northern competing lines of railway. The thing to do is to have more of the same sort of publicity.

The Chieftain's creed in the present city campaign is that the town has had a safe, conservative and progressive government for the last twelve months and wants the same to continue another year.

Robt. L. Owen, writing from Washington, says that congress is sure to make some provision for the removal of restrictions from the lands of those citizens of the five tribes who are competent to transact their own affairs.

Good farm horses are scarce and quite high in price in this market. A good many farmers have sold their stock in the states before coming here, expecting to purchase again when they got located, which they find not an easy task.

Grover Cleveland is trying to explain why he did not proceed against the trusts during his administration. No explanation is necessary. The country knows why. The judges of the supreme court appointed by him were against the income tax and in favor of the trusts.

Close the door to the saloons in the states and put a quietus on the bootleggers in Indian Territory and you shut up more than half the roads to the penitentiary, and "Old Ten Spot," the prison car built for the use of Territory courts could be dumped into the Arkansas river.

President Roosevelt has just wasted an hour of valuable time lecturing a bunch of Sioux Indians on the necessity of abandoning horse racing and gambling and going to work. It were perfectly safe to offer one hundred thousand dollars reward to each one of them that heeds the advice for a whole week.

The rumblings from Washington indicate that some time we may have a constitutional convention and be permitted to form a state government. This would be an important event in the history of this Indian country and the opportunity must not be wasted to make some wholesome laws with reference to the practice of law.

A number of fences have been cut by orders from the Indian agent in this section recently. In many instances it works a great hardship on the owners of the land who are not financially able to purchase the necessary material for the additional fencing. It is said some of the section line being forced open pass through fields when it is but a short distance around.

The four commissioners that have hitherto composed the commission to the five civilized tribes could very consistently be reduced to one member and the service not suffer in the least. Really, it has been a hindrance to have to wait for all the commission to sign important documents that one man might have signed and gone on with the work, saving weeks of delay.

Now that both political parties have full tickets in the municipal field, there should be an honest effort made to have a fair election—a thing that is unusual in Vinita or anywhere else. Even over in Missouri they buy votes and sell votes as a regular commodity on the market. We have men in both political parties who are willing to take money for their votes, and men who are willing to pay money for votes. The bribe giver has no politics. He is neither a democrat nor a republican but just a plain politician.

General Reeves is offering \$1,000 for proof that his name ever appeared upon the Muskogee democratic club roll. Let's see, didn't Ira L. Reeves run a democratic paper in Vinita ten or twelve years ago?

W. T. Hutchings represents a number of white intermarried citizens before the Court of Claims, and arrangement has been made for his fee. Five dollars each is being paid to Wm. Little, the president of the Vinita National bank, and the names of the donors are enrolled as fast as they pay. If the Indian appropriation bill amendment, as agreed to by the Senate committee, passes the case will be docketed and tried in the regular course of business.

The delay in opening the Cherokee land office will it is believed continue until toward the close of the present session of congress. Senator Quay and other attorneys for the Delawares have instituted tactics that can mean nothing less than delay and that practically indefinite. The segregation of lands belonging to the living registered Delawares need not stop the work of allotment as they are all in possession of the 100 acres due them under the agreement.

According to the law as it now stands in the Indian appropriation bill, it shall be unlawful for any person who is now, or may have been in the employ of the United States, directly or indirectly to purchase, lease, or have any interest in any Indian lands the distribution of which was in any manner whatsoever pending in or before the branch of the government service in which such person was employed, until after the expiration of two years from the termination of such employment.

The democratic dissention on account of the refusal of the executive committee to allow a primary election held is a very natural result. The primary election originated with the democratic party and is one of the tenets of its political faith, and cannot be dispensed with without serious loss to the party. Much less than fifty per cent. of the democratic voters spoke by their presence at the ward meetings, and therefore was not a fair expression of the party. Take away the primary and the party is always injured.

The present city campaign is different from all others in that there are two straight party tickets in the field. This is the first time this has occurred in the history of the town. It is now a matter of politics as to how a man casts his vote. Each party expects to make Vinita a stronghold for the future dissemination of its principles. Without undue excitement, the contest should be carried out to a finish. There is no deed for vilification nor party bitterness, and there will be none. Men will simply vote for the party they would rather see in control, city and national.

The assurance with which the republicans claim the fullblood Indian vote does not impress one familiar with Indian character as being in the bounds of reason or common political acumen. The fact is the fullblood has reason for dislike of the republican party, and he does so most heartily. The Indians hold the republican party responsible for the treaty of 1866, which forced upon them the freedmen, their former slaves, with whom they have been compelled to divide their tribal inheritance. The freedmen are getting allotments and have shared in the per capita payments of money that belonged to the Indians. The Indians have never become reconciled to what they considered at the time, and still consider, an outrage upon their treaty rights. The fullblood, along with the mixed blood, therefore hold a deepseated prejudice against the negro and against the political party that forced them to divide their property with him. The Indians take the position that they held their lands by patent from the government and that to force them to divide it with their former slaves was unjust and without precedent in the history of the American government. When the time comes, the leaders among all these Indians can go among their people and remind them of this act of perfidy, as they regard it, on the part of the republican party, and they will leave the party en masse. The democratic leaders among the Cherokees, and among the other tribes, too, know this and will use it effectively at the proper time.

Scissored and Otherwise

An Iowa man who was arrested for hugging a dummy figure in a dressmaking establishment explained to the court that he was drunk and believed it to be a pretty woman. The court sympathized with him, but to sustain the dignity of the law inflicted upon him a light fine for hugging a delusion.

Doubtless Clarence B. Douglas feels elated over the removal of Murphy, who in turn caused Douglas to be fired bodily from the Indian agent's office, but then it does not seem hardly necessary for Douglas to punish his readers with poster type references to his Monte Cristo ideas of revenge.—South McAlester Capital.

"Whenever a democratic official betrays his trust do not apologize for him; brand him and drive him out of the party and make him join the republican party or go off alone. They cannot investigate boodling in a city now without catching democrats in the net; they cannot investigate boodling in a legislature without gathering in democrats; they cannot investigate boodling anywhere but what they find some democrats who are involved like the republicans, and these men do more hurt to the democratic party—these men do more to injure our chances of success than any plank that was ever put into a platform."—William J. Bryan.

Pat Murphy, attorney for the Creek Nation, has been fired by Chief Porter acting on the disclosures brought to light by Bonaparte. Murphy is a republican and was a few days ago nominated by a Missouri district for congress. He is one of the breed of carpet baggers who attempt to rule or ruin, and his success should be an object lesson to others whose residence in the Indian Territory depends entirely on the life of a seat at the pie counter.—South McAlester Capital.

It Was Suggested by the Phoenix.

From Washington by private wire comes the information that not only has the salary of the Indian Agent been increased, but that his power has been materially increased to that extent that he is no longer subject to the order of the Inspector, nor does his correspondence in the future pass under the supervision of a \$1500 clerk or even the Inspector. He is agent in fact as well as in name, and as a bonded official responsible on that bond can now transact the duties of this most important office without being hampered by local officials, as was suggested by the Phoenix and recommended by Mr. Bonaparte in his report.—Muskogee Phoenix.

The Machine.

The machine is a secret, intangible body, unknown to and beyond, if not above, the law. It is destroying our institutions; for it creates an irresponsible supreme power, which is the mark of despotism; it teaches disrespect for the law, and keeps the better class of citizens out of public life. It has no principles but greed, no politics but selfish interests, no purpose but graft. Graft, as the term is here used, includes unearned salaries, fees, perquisites, political honors, licenses, privileges, profits on public contracts and legislation, in short, everything gained through the public service, except statutory pay for services actually rendered.

Perhaps the subtlest poison is the promise of the machine to reform. The boss will say that he is dissatisfied with the machine and acknowledge its defects; that he would like to reform it; that he would like to get rid of some of the undesirable elements in the machine if he could only fill their places with better men, like you, for instance; that all the better elements of the party should get together within the machine; that the machine is not in itself bad, but only wrong sometimes because the people hold aloof from it. It has often been noted that a prodigal, or even a second-rate, can get more money on his promise to reform than a faithful man on his never dishonored promise to pay.

Raymond's Rules.

Judge Raymond of the Western district has the merit of originality to say the least, and occasionally gives out a nugget of judicial wisdom.

In the Western district recently there has been much dissatisfaction in the manner of choosing jurors. The statutes provided for a jury commission, but this was not generally observed. The juries have been selected by the marshal of the court at his discretion. The attorneys of the district have made such a vigorous protest, backed up by public sentiment, that something had to be done. About this time, too, juries sitting at the Muskogee term acquitted nearly every person tried before them and received a severe rebuke from the bench. These juries also failed to sustain the indictments found in wholesale numbers by the grand jury in session at that time, and as a result of the unusual proceedings the term was brought to an abrupt end.

Since that time there has been a jury commission appointed to select the juries at each term of court. And the court has gone still further and now issues instructions to the jury commission. To the last one the following was addressed:

"For jurymen select sober men. A drunken man is good for no serious service. Select fair men; a prejudiced or unfair man is never safe for a public place. Select capable men; a narrow-minded, ill-formed man is not broad enough to pass upon the rights of the people. Select men of good character; a man of no character ought not to be allowed to decide between the government and the lawbreaker. Select honest men; a dishonest man will not render an honest verdict. Select men who are right-minded at home; they are more likely to do right and be right in their jury services."

Had His Fun.

He stood on the corner in the warm sunshine, leaning against a post watching the medicine vender. He was a little rusty as to clothes, and a little frazzled as to beard, and his cheeks were very red. After listening to the fakir's patter for a time, the man who had seen his fun, dragged his feet wearily along in the direction of the postoffice. He was not expecting a letter, nor a paper, but he went to the postoffice and drifted out and stood in the doorway of a billiard hall, but the man behind the cigar stand looked up quickly and the man who had seen a good time in his day, turned away and walked back to the medicine crowd.

All the afternoon he poked around town; occasionally he talked to acquaintances, and at dusk lounged home hurrying briskly as he turned the corner into his street, for he did not want the children to know what a loafer he is. He has no work—and that, too, when everyone is busy. He is in the way wherever he goes. He sponges a few drinks a day and keeps up steam. But he is rickety and a totterer in this bustling world.

Yet he has had a good time in his day, and a better in his night. He has raised Cain with the boys while his women folks were praying for him. He has lost job after job. People say that if he would let whisky alone he would be a successful man, but he has preferred to be the champion human tank of his crowd. Time was when he knew more "stories" than a cigar drummer, and never went to bed the decent side of two in the morning. He could play a stiff game of billiards and he was handy with the ivory. And you bet he enjoyed it—used to wonder what the Sunday school kind of boys got of life; what was money for but to spend anyway? Rode down Commercial street time and again with his feet sticking out the back windows, happy and high-loussome. Used to take a dime's worth of peanuts and go down to the side show and "raise hell." It was hur-ray for hooroo five nights in the week and rattle dazdle the other two. He had his time. He played his game. Now he is a stuffed out castle, greasy and smutty, and his children are ashamed of him and his wife is living on "her" folks.—William Allen White.

The Negro Question in Indian Territory.

The platform of the Indian Territory republicans adopted in convention at Claremore last week shows that the republicans over there have studied the bill introduced by Senator Quay and approve of it. There is a declaration in the platform that no property or educational test shall ever be imposed upon the right of suffrage in the state to be formed. It is patently and avowedly in the interest of the negro vote and is to an extent an amplification of the Quay proposition which was primarily directed to the interests of the Indian and mixed blood with tribal rights. The plank adopted at Claremore is as follows:

"In accord with the time honored doctrine of the republican party in favor of the enfranchisement of the negro, we ask of congress in granting statehood to Indian Territory that it shall incorporate in the bill for that purpose a provision that the new constitution that shall be adopted by the new state shall contain a provision granting equal suffrage to all citizens regardless of race and forever prohibiting the legislature of the new state from passing any law requiring any property or educational qualification for a voter."

It is a bold step. It is particularly gratifying to the negro leaders who have made the exploitation of the Quay bill a study in the past few months. Among them is E. P. McCabe, of Oklahoma, through whose efforts the matter has been well presented to the people of the Indian Territory.

There is unquestioned justice in the position of the Indian Territory Republicans, and in the struggle that will come in the first campaign where the people will vote if that plank shall remain it will be worse than a travesty if every negro voter does not support the ticket and make an effort to forget himself in the welfare of the party.—State Capital.

More About Sequoyah.

The Rev. Thomas Roberts, a missionary of the Baptist church to the Cherokees in 1821, in his autobiography, furnishes the following tribute to Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet:

"I will refer to a wonderful interposition of Providence which raised the Cherokee churches from barbarism to a state of civilization and general knowledge of letters, so that the whole people could acquire the art of reading God's word in a few days. While we engaged, day and night, in forming an alphabet of Roman letters adapted to the language, translating the Sunday school spelling book into Cherokee, there was an illiterate Indian named George Guess (poor man!) had nothing better than a black coal from the hearth and a shingle to make the heaven-inspired marks that, in God's providence were destined to remove, in a very short time, the black marks of sin and ignorance from the tribe and lead them by easy steps into the knowledge of Bible truth.

"The system consists of eighty-four characters, each of which represents a syllable, and by their innumerable combinations form one of the most beautiful and comprehensive languages uttered by the human tongue.

"An edition of our translated spelling book was published in New York and hailed by the Indians as the day star; but just then the new system was brought to the notice of the council, who rewarded Guess for the invention. It immediately superseded all the incipient attempts of the missionaries, and they gladly accepted the syllabic alphabet in all their ensuing productions and translations."

"Alabama."

Here's a beautiful story "of the tribes of the wandering feet."

A band of weary Indians, driven by their foes from place to place, finally crossed a broad river and, setting up their tepees, exclaimed: "Alabama!" The meaning of the word in the Indian tongue is "Here we rest." And thus a state was named. The sequel we know.

Where these aborigines expected to find rest and a home, they found only enemies and the grave. So of us all—

Humanity, driven hither and yon, looks forward to the day when it shall cross the broad river of trouble and setting up its pilgrim staff, say to itself, "Alabama; Here we rest." And that day never comes.

You say to yourself in the early days, there must be toil and sacrifice until the foothold is gained, until the business is established, until the income is gained. Later, you have passed the goal. Still you strive and save. You discover that the foothold must be retained, the business boomed, the income increased to increasing needs. Place and position secured, a great effort must be made to hold place and position. There is no Alabama in a strenuous life. Or—

You have said to yourself, The children are small. There must be provision for them. Some day they will grow up and leave the family. When they are able to take care of themselves then a well earned season of repose shall be enjoyed. Well, The children have grown up. You have advanced the date of your day of rest. The children must be educated. Toil and economy is necessary. When the children are educated and married then we can say to ourselves, "Here we rest." Well, The children are educated. Now we must wait until they are married. They are married. Then they must be launched in business, etc., etc., etc. Or,

If the children are taking care of themselves there are parents or dear friends, or the worthy cause—

And so go on, slaving, saving, walking the dusty highway, bearing our bundle upon us until some day we drop it by the side of an open grave. Is it not better so?

We need stimulus and incentive. Without something to live for and work for and die for life would be an insipid and dull commonplace. Besides—

The burden steadies the feet and keeps erect the moral backbone.

When your burden is done, then and not till then, can you say to your soul, "Alabama." And who that is able to work wants to admit his work is done? Rather would you not prefer that epitaph which is written on the flat stone over the grave of the soldier of Padua:

"Here He Who Never Rested, Rests."—K. C. World.