

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

CONFEDERATE NIGHTMARE.

Senator Heyburn of Idaho, appears to be the special representative of that small class of persons who rejoice to be known as South-haters.

He had previously established his reputation in the matter mentioned by making a violent wordy protest against the statue of the great Southern soldier, Robert E. Lee, that stands in the historic hall of the National capitol at Washington. A marble Washington and a bronze Lee stand side by side in that hall, and the latter has sternly refused to retreat before the denunciations of the Idaho senator. It always required something more serious than loud talk and billingsgate to force him to retreat.

Not having been able to drive the bronze hero out of Statutory hall, the Idaho senator yesterday denounced and opposed a bill in the United States senate to lend to the State of Alabama some tents for its Confederate veteran encampment, but the bill passed with only one dissenting vote, which was that of the Idaho senator.

Mr. Heyburn, if he would only read a law framed by Republican Senator of Ohio, regulating the militia, he might be able to understand that the militia of Alabama and of every state in the Union are virtually a part of the United States army, and in case of war would be the first reserve called out. The Confederate veterans would gladly take service for the Union under the old flag, but they are too old. Their hearts are there, however, and the fact that they may sleep in army tents next spring should not disturb the Idaho senator's slumbers with nightmare. They are harmless.—New Orleans Picayune.

The number of North Dakotans visiting other states who succumb to the gentle persuasions of the confidence sharp seems to be increasing at an alarming rate. It is rather amusing to note how easily those poor innocents can be prevailed upon to part with their wads. The sharp sizes up his prospective victim as soon as he sees him, decides upon a method of procedure which best suits the case in hand and puts it in operation. Sometimes he poses as an official inspector of the coin of the realm; again he condescends to tip his new-found friend to a "sure-thing" in a fake betting game or permits a confederate to walk away with his pile in a game of poker. And, in the case of bankers, he sells them gold bricks. It is high time that citizens of North Dakota, who visit other states for business or pleasure, opened their eyes to the fact that the stranger, no matter how gentlemanly he may appear, who tries to force his friendship upon one, is a dangerous individual. It is not pleasant to have our citizens commented upon as rubes who breed sparrows in their whiskers.—Souris Messenger.

A writer from Mountrail county recently informed the independent readers that the taxes in Mountrail county were lower this year than last. If they are, then one of the publishers of the Independent, who owns a farm in Mountrail county has a just kick coming. Last year the taxes on this farm were something like \$14, but this year they had increased to nearly double. We do not believe that the taxes are excessive, and they will be cheerfully paid upon the farm in question, yet it would not be at all surprising if there was a slight increase in taxes, when one considers the improvements to be made and the increased cost that was made necessary by the division of the county.

There are three judges of the supreme court to be elected at the next general election in November. North Dakota needs supreme judges with liberal minds, who are not sticklers on technicalities. One judge with old-fashioned ideas may be all right on the bench, but when all of them are willing to send cases back for retrial because the judge's were not dotted nor all of the t's crossed, it's time to make a change. We refer to the Noah case, where our worthy judges were willing to put Ward county to an expense of several hundred dollars for a new trial, just because the clerk failed to name the crime, of which Noah had entered a plea of guilty, and who instead, plainly stated that he had pleaded guilty to the charge filed in the complaint.

Ninety-six young women are learning to practice economy at the Kansas State Agricultural college at Manhattan. They are divided into groups of four each, and each group is allowed \$4.00 by the faculty, with which the cook is expected to furnish five meals each for four persons, or at the rate of 20 cents a meal. This is sometimes done well for \$3.15 each, and from it the cost of laundering the table linen, decorating the tables, etc., is included. This is a most important course, and one which every young woman who expects to ever be mistress in her own home, ought to take. High arts are all right, but the woman who is worth the most in these days of increased cost of living, is she who can plan a good meal and cook it in the most economical manner.

The Granville Herald in speaking of C. W. Hookway's candidacy for state senator, says: "He does not profess to be a wiseacre and know a remedy for every evil of the body politic, etc." We'd rather take our chances on such a fellow than on the fellow who knows how to run every office from the president's job down.

The primary law is getting some rather severe jolts in the northwest and in North Dakota. The theory of the law that it afforded all men equal opportunities to become candidates for office seems to be pretty well exploded by the manipulations of political leaders. It appears to have succeeded in dividing parties into factions and cliques, who select sets of men to run for office, and support them to the exclusion of other candidates. The independent candidates who believe they have a chance of winning a nomination, it would seem, are doomed to disappointment. Whether or not an amendment of the present law with reference to state candidates, having in view a system of nominations by delegate representation, safeguarded as to choice, and with a possible referendum to the people in the event of a strong minority preference, would or would not be an improvement upon the present system is a question that is likely to be seriously considered by the next legislature. Conventions make mistakes, and combinations do things that are distasteful and subject to criticism. But whether public life and the inclination to enter it is made easier and better by the state-wide primary is a question open to serious discussion.—Bismarck Tribune.

The editor of the Bantry Advocate ought to be ashamed of himself. In referring to the possum which the editor of the Independent recently assisted in eating, he intimates that the possum is accused of eating carrion. The Bantry editor knows that he is libeling Bill Possum as well as the editor of this paper, for we don't believe he can prove a word of it. The idea of creating a disfavor for this southern delicacy! Why couldn't he have allowed us to rest in peace? But you will find everywhere people who are never satisfied unless they succeed in turning one's stomach or creating a bad taste in one's mouth. No one but a bloomin' Northerner would dare to intimate that an opossum ever ate anything but nuts and persimmons. This is nature faking proper.

The wisest man we ever knew, knew nothing. He had a wise look and the only sense he had was the sense of keeping his mouth shut. His wise look increased with age, and he came to be an oracle without having oracled anything. For a quarter of a century he held his peace, but a dish at a dinner was his undoing. At a dinner the wise man sat in all the mystery of his solemn silence. There happened to be shrimps, and as that was mentioned his face lighted up. There was a hush as if the Great Moment had arrived when the wise man was going to speak. He did speak. He simply said, "Them's me." It was a sad break of an owl like silence, and it fixed the man.

James J. Hill struck the nail on the head when he said "Until land thieves are stopped, and land laws reformed, this country will not have taken even the preliminary step toward proper irrigation and drainage systems. Mr. Hill, believes that the repeal of the desert land act, the timber and stone act and the stringent enforcement of the provisions of the homestead act, are necessary to honest dealing with the land question. Speculators and land grabbers prevent this, while occasional congressmen and senators are disgraced by participating in land frauds."

Some interesting farmers' communications appear in this issue of the Independent. This paper welcomes these letters. We, of course, cannot agree with everything that appear in all of these letters, because they express a variety of views, nevertheless, we believe in a broad-minded policy, and gladly give them space. We do not refer particularly to the letters in this issue. We are glad to see our farmer friends so wide awake. It shows that they are thinking independently, and nothing but good can be the result.

The citizens of northern Williams county are discussing county division and will probably divide that county at the next election if they properly organize. Williams county ought to be divided. Let a man in the northern part of the county, Ambrose, for instance have a business transaction in the county seat, and unless he goes across country, he has to go by rail to Flaxton, thence to Minot, and west 123 miles to Williston, traveling a distance of over 200 miles either way.

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