

# SCOTT COUNTY WICKER.

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## OBSERVATIONS BY THE EDITOR.

### A Few Tips For Those Who Doubt that the State Machine is Not Equal to Any Emergency.

The last issue of the *Kicker* was freely commented upon throughout the county—and especially did the articles on the possible side-tracking of Mr. Folk and on the liquor traffic as a revenue producer receive attention.

Concerning the possibility of a bolt by the machine at Jefferson City; the nomination of a machine ticket and the sure thing that the state committee and the supreme court would back up such action would not go down with some. They do not believe that the machine would dare to go so far.

These doubting Thomases have not watched the machine as others have. If there is anything the gang will balk at, it hasn't showed up yet. Let us take a brief review of what has come to light during the past two years, and then we can better judge as to the timidity of the state machine.

For years the gang has been stealing elections in St. Louis, but the Democrats out in the country didn't believe it because the Republic defied the race. The first eye-opener was the Cardwell (of Kansas City) case, in which Mr. Cardwell sued the St. Louis Republic for libel. Mr. Cardwell was in politics and, like Meriwether, was opposing the machine. The Republic abused and slandered Cardwell, as it did Meriwether, with the result that suit was brought.

To make out his case, it became necessary for Mr. Cardwell to show what sort of a gang of political pirates the Republic represented. Among other things he proved:

That Sam Cook and Jim Seibert made it a business to bleed big corporations for campaign funds, and that in return these corporations got what they wanted in the way of legislation.

That Cook and Seibert were lobbyists, and urged members of the legislature to support such measures as the campaign fund contributors desired.

That they violated the Corrupt Practice act by falsifying the books. For instance, contributions given by Bill Phelps of the Missouri Pacific or Judge Priest of the St. Louis Transit Co. were entered as if paid by Wm. J. Stone, Sam Cook or others. They were "hiding the shells."

That, as a sitting finale, when Jim Seibert, after ignoring a subpoena, was arrested by a little Irish constable, he went to Mart Clardy, chief attorney for the Missouri Pacific Ry., and Mr. Clardy called up "Brown" over the long distance telephone, and "Brown" paid Mr. Cardwell a "digested sum" rather than have Mr. Seibert take the witness stand and tell what he knew about party matters.

But the machine organs got even. They said it was a dirty Republican trick, and that Cardwell was no Democrat. All but about 85,000 out in the State seemed to take this view of it, and they waited up to the polls and voted 'er straight the following fall.

Next came the legislature. Before its opening the newspapers were hot with the war between Senator Frank Farris and Lieut-Gov. Lee. Each threatened the other—but when the legislature met both got in the same bed—and there was harmony.

The scandals of that session of the legislature started the nation. The Lieutenant Governor, caught with the goods on him, confessed. This revealed the fact that the state ring is now and has been for years in full fellowship with all manner of corruption.

We now know that corrupt lobbyists (lawyers, of course) sat behind the scenes behind the presiding officer of the senate and dictated his action. We know that senator would pass to and from this lobby for instructions, and that this lobby controlled the action of such senators on the floor.

We know that these senators were caught with \$1,000 bills on their persons, and when pressed for an explanation as to where the big bills came from they stood on their "Constitutional rights."

Not satisfied with the two hundred thousand dollars of people's money Sam Cook had distributed among the faithful organs during the fall previous for printing the constitutional amendments, and another donation to come this fall, the gang started a bureau to furnish the happenings at the state capital to these organs. The man in charge of this bureau was the one caught with \$1,000 bill on him—and he too carried through the path he prepared by the supreme court. When asked to explain how he came by so much money he stood on his constitutional rights.

It was shown that when business got dull representatives of the senate combine would go to St. Louis or Kansas City and give a confidential tip to certain corporate interests with a significant after statement that for a stated amount the adverse legislation could be killed. If the corporation acceded to the demands of the representative of the legislative combine he would telegraph his pals at Jefferson City "driftwood coming."

To tell the whole story would take up forty issues of the *Kicker* and more. There is nothing in the way of official corruption that has been overlooked in Missouri. The states' honor was peddled out to them that could buy, and when the peddlers were being uncovered they yelled, "You are slandering Missouri!"

It is a long and dirty story. I have not the space to go into detail of how a man who is now a United States Senator from this state palmed himself off as the "Missouri Health Society" and had a law passed that forbade the sale of all but trust made baking powder.

But, to prove that the gang is equal to any emergency, I might conclude that of the nineteen bidders convicted in the state courts, not a one is wearing a striped suit, nor will they.

And of the twenty odd indictments for election frauds committed at the recent primaries a Betler Judge has quashed them all and will continue to do so although Assistant Prosecutor Hancock says he proposes to bring them to trial if it takes every dollar the state has.

Scarcely had the *Kicker* reached postoffice when a copy of it was carried to the saloon and its contents eagerly devoured by the assembled crowd.

Nowhere is the *Kicker* more eagerly sought for than at the saloon—although very few who visit the place take the paper. They all patronize the organ. It is Democratic. And then it contains the W. C. T. U. column—sometimes when the saloon crowd does not object.

But I am glad that they read the *Kicker*. It may do them good. I am told that it is read out loud so that all may read and discuss it. So long as they do not object to reading the truth there is hope.

What seemed to bother them last week was the identity of the man who came to town with two dollars to buy provisions and went home to his suffering family with a jag, a twist of tobacco and a spool of thread instead.

Evidently some of them regarded it as a reflection upon themselves, and a messenger was sent to inquire of the editor who was meant. The editor replied that if he had desired the identity of the man known he would have printed his name in the paper—and the messenger departed.

But the article in question was much commented on and generally approved by the people. It put the liquor question in a different light, and convinced many that it's the law and not the liquor dealer that is largely to blame for the evils of intemperance.

We condemn the saloon-keeper because his business brings misery to a home.

Does he not do business according to law?

We might as well condemn the chattel mortgage shark for robbing a family of its last pig.

**SIDE LIGHTS.**  
Observations on Things in General and Particular.

BY J. N. SOON.  
The Democratic platform adopted at Albany, New York, is believed to have been written by Dave Hill, the arch apostle of Expedience with a capital E. It looks very likely. But no master who wrote it, it was adopted by the tongue-tied Judge Parker, was endorsed by Grover Cleveland and is now the manifesto of the Democrats of the Empire State.

It is a good pattern of platform architecture for the national convention to avoid.

Four-fifths of it is a string of glittering generalities and platitudes of the "be-good-and-you'll-be-happy" order, and might be inserted in the platform of any sort of party without either making or marring it. For instance:

"This is a government of laws, not of men; one-day for President, Cabinet and people; no insurrection, no encroachment on the legislative or judicial departments."  
Agreed, my Democratic, Republican, Populists and Socialists in a breath. Again!

"honesty in the public service;" a brief paragraph to the effect that military domination tends to weaken and destroy the love of liberty; another that "the rights of labor and of capital must be impartially maintained;" and so forth.

All this cheap-John patter in what they call a "declaration upon the issues of the hour." It's opera bouffe! Why, when the Republicans are at their worst in the practical subversion of every last one of these things they are shouting their loudest in just about the above strains.

Then we have the following:  
"Corporations chartered by the state must be subject to just regulation by the state in the interest of the people; taxation for public purposes only; no government partnership with protected monopolies."

"Opposition to trusts and combinations that oppress the people and stifle healthy industrial competition."

"Reasonable revision of the tariff; needless duties upon imported raw materials weigh heavily upon the manufacturer; are a menace to the American wage earner, and by increasing the cost of production shut out our products from foreign markets."

"The maintenance of state rights and home rule; no centralization."

Take that tariff plank, now! Why, the Iowa Republicans demanded a larger reform. The most pressing question before the people today is this same question of tariffs, for it is conceded to be the fertile mother of the trust evil, yet this New York platform dismisses it in one or two half-hearted sentences, vague and indefinite. A platform with any backbone to it should demand a reduction of tariff duties that enable the manufacturer to sell steel rails in Arabia at \$19, in Canada at \$21, and in his neighbors at home at \$28.

From beginning to end, in short, the Albany platform is a straddle, of time-serving, on-the-fence piece of flim-flam, eminently worthy of its alleged author, and utterly futile as an expression of the demands of a great party. It should wreck the Parker boom.

At the recent term of circuit court a man in the north end of the county was convicted in two cases of selling liquor without a license, and an aggregate fine of \$150 was imposed.

Last Monday the county court granted this same man a dramshop license.

Here is the law in such cases made and provided:  
Revised Statutes, 1899, Chap. XXII, Art. 1, Sec. 2091. "No person shall, directly or indirectly, sell, intoxicating liquors in any quantity less than three gallons, either at retail or in original package, without taking out a license as a dramshop keeper."

Sec. 2013. "No county court shall grant a license to any person as a dramshop keeper whose license as such keeper has once been revoked OR WHO HAS EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE," etc.

It is up to the county court to say why it violated this mandatory law. It is up to Mr. Kelly to say why, as legal adviser of the court, he did not advise his client against granting said license—

It is up to the next grand jury to take action in the matter.

**FROM VANDUSER.**  
D. A. Potter and family visited at J. B. Buggs' Sunday and Mr. and Mrs. A. Jones at Sam Gibbs'. Miss Floy Bugg visited Carrie Jones Monday.

Mr. Healey and wife have moved to Pine Bluff, Ark. Sorry to lose such good folks.

Children's Day will be Sunday, June 5. Come and help us arrange for it next Sunday afternoon.

The box supper Saturday night to buy a bell for the church was a success.

Messdames Hamilton and Woodward shopped in Sikeston Wednesday.

Lenard Fields has quit bartending and gone home to old Kaintuck.

Grandma Leonberger has returned to her home in Illinois.

Little Ivory Vanduser is somewhat better at this writing.

**FROM GRAYBORO.**  
John Meehan, foreman of the rock crusher, was killed by a switch engine Monday morning. He was drinking, and in making friendly gestures to a brakeman as the engine passed over-balanced himself, fell under the wheels and was horribly mangled. Coroner Frazer held an inquest and the remains were shipped to his home at Grand Rapids, Mich. Mr. Meehan was well liked by all, and seldom drank. He was well-to-do, and on his person was found \$342. Only another victim of our revenue system.

Chas. Hillemann is remodeling his saloon building preparatory to taking charge of the post office next week. He was appointed postmaster to succeed Albert Schuette, resigned. Mr. Schuette and family will move to Cape Girardeau, where he will engage in the restaurant business.

Visitors to Grayboro are liable to get their feet wet—especially if they promenade in the swags. In some places the water is four feet deep in the streets, and many families have moved to higher ground, where they occupy tents. River falling.

Louis Houck has granted a roadway to connect Manning and Grayboro, which means that the two towns will soon be under one government. Then Squire Kjer will be a resident of the 'steenth ward, Grayboro.

Monday night a laborer from the bridge works came here to get his mail. Returning he was met at the lower end of the yards by three men, knocked in the head and robbed of \$62, watch and his chewing tobacco.

**FROM EDNA.**  
James Keller of Chicago bought lots 11 & 12 in block A, and Phil A. Halber bought lots 17, 18, 19 & 20 in block B, Tuesday.

A large camp with a number of teams will be placed on the Cotton Belt yard this week to level off preparatory to laying steel.

Jones & Co., at Edna, have a nice line of groceries and lunch goods and pay the highest price for butter and eggs. 26-2c.

Work of filling on the bridge company's yard has been resumed and is progressing with the more favorable weather.

John Melton, the expert sign painter, has been doing some house and sign painting for Jones & Co. this week.

The new butcher shop is nearly completed and Louis Ziegler & Co. will open a meat market Monday.

Hillemann & Eifert have bought lot 3 of A. H. Mainz and are placing material for their business house.

Adolph Hillemann dangerously cut his foot with an axe a few days ago, but it seems to be doing nicely.

John Rubel and wife are now citizens of our town, having moved into their new house last week.

Rev. A. Fuehrer attended the Lutheran Pastoral Conference at St. Louis during the week.

Mrs. F. Schuette of Cape county was the guest of her son Henry a few days this week.

Miss Anna Roth gave a social to quite a number of her friends Friday evening.

Leo Diebold, the Kelso tinner, did some tin roofing here this week.

Arthur Hall of Blairville was here Tuesday looking after his acre.

Quite a number went to see the high water Sunday.

Herman Musbach of Ilmo was here Monday.

Mrs. Mollie Proffer went to Benton Monday.

Chas. Hamm is in St. Louis.

**FROM ORAN.**  
Rev. Rudolph moved into his new house Monday. Lige Smith occupies the house vacated by him.

I. M. and Frisco train developments are pretty much hot air—like artesian well promises.

Chas. Stokes will give a temperance talk at the opera house next Sunday night. Hear him.

Baptist Sunday school and mission had 116 in attendance Sunday.

Andy Metz is wainscoting and painting the interior of his saloon.

The Catholic school entertainment will be at the opera house May 31.

Mrs. W. E. Harris entertained a few friends quilting Thursday.

Rex Cunningham visited his aunt, Mrs. Lizzie Massey, Sunday.

Miss Leah O'Brien and mother of Blodgett were here Sunday.

Barney Wagner lost a fine horse by lung fever last week.

Dr. and Mrs. T. E. Tomlinson visited relatives Sunday.

Pearl Marshall has been visiting friends in Tennessee.

Mr. Townes of Delta had business here Monday.

Mrs. Wm. Friend is again a resident of Oran.

J. J. Hess of Edna spent a few days with relatives.

Cotton is being extensively planted hereabouts.

Many Oranites went fishing last week.

Wm. Stubblefield, Sr., was here on Monday.

**FROM KELS0.**  
Kelso township has the youngest old man in the world. Uncle Charley Vetter is in his eightieth year and walks from his home to Kelso and return (a distance of eight miles) with as much ease as a boy.

Farmers who have my wheat sacks will please return them to the warehouse at once. Otherwise they must pay for them. A. Baudendistel.

Dr. and Mrs. Vorbeck were at Oran Monday where they purchased fixtures for a drug store to be opened up here.

Anton Stabler, two children of Val Messmer and the baby boy of Chas. Henning have pneumonia.

Vincent Lauck and family visited the family of Henry Westrich, in the Sandysoods Monday.

**FROM COMMERCE.**  
Mrs. Precilla Gibbs, of Macedonia who was so seriously burned while burning stalks that she died later, was a native Missourian, born in Hannibal 79 years ago. She came to Scott county before the war.

When last heard from the Ward-Stone expedition that left here for Canada a few weeks ago was side-tracked at Harvey, N. D., but expected to get away this week.

Tywappity farmers have been making a very "bad face", but the river is declining and they will soon be wearing that same old smile.

Dr. T. F. Frazer, who attended the World's Fair opening Saturday, says the newspapers do a mighty sight of lying about it.

Mrs. Sam Orchard, of Bloomington is at the bed side of her mother, Mrs. Ruth McPheeters, who is very sick.

Dr. Roy Frazer is attending the meeting of the Medical Association.

**FROM ROCKVIEW.**  
FOR SALE—My farm west of Kelso, containing 100 acres, about 75 acres in cultivation and balance in timber. Sixty acres in bottom and the rest in the hills. In sight of four railroads. Good barn, house and outbuildings, two elsterns and several good springs. For further particulars apply to or write:

J. J. BLES, Kelso, Mo.  
Our young folks will dance. They danced at Felden's Saturday night, at Kelso Monday night and at Bleda Tuesday night.

The bull, at Felden's Saturday night was attended by natives of five towns, and was a big success.

About all the Rockview folks had to move out on account of high water.

Frank Amrhein and family spent Sunday at J. P. Holmes' place.

Mrs. Fred Haines is reported quite sick.

Nick Meuz is building a fine barn.

**FROM UNITY.**  
Mrs. Sophia Hodgkiss spent Monday with Mrs. Jos. Utange. They went fishing. Wind northeast and no fish.

We had preaching Saturday night and Sunday by Rev. Atwood. House packed and much interest manifested.

Norval Goddard and wife visited home folks and went fishing. Ask them how many they caught.

Geo. Hodgkiss and wife of Crowder were guests at Ed Chewning's Saturday and Sunday.

Everybody busy. Melons all up and looking fine, with a good stand.

Come out to Unity Sunday and help start Sunday school at 9:30 a. m.

Joe Hutchison and family spent Sunday with Mrs. New Anderson.

Squire Huffstutler is convalescing from a case of mumps.

**FROM CROWDER.**  
Wm. Hudson and L. Palmer think they own the town because big boys came to their homes on the 27th and 28th ult.

Big ball in the Rifner's store building Friday night. Everybody come. Dr. Molder of Central, Mo., visited here a few days last week.

**FROM NEW HAMBURG.**  
The church property will be greatly improved during the year. Alexander Dunbar and Peter Goshe have begun painting the church; the foundation of the new school building will begin next week, and by August 1 our church will contain one of the finest organs in Southeast Missouri to cost \$1,600.

Mrs. M. Goshe visited her daughter Mrs. Joe Geisner, at Oran Tuesday.

There was a large crowd and many visitors at Church Sunday.

Fr. Helmbecher was here Wednesday.

**From Kelso To Grayboro.**  
Tuesday the editor, accompanied by his very much better half, drove to Grayboro, and after leaving Kelso we found the new town as thick as tools in the artesian well.

Leaving Kelso we came to Ancell, where are two large grain warehouses, a depot and two new and substantial dwelling houses just erected by Joe H. Dumey and Matt Thomas.

A mile to the east is Henry Schutte's pride, the village of Edna. And it begins to have the appearance of a village. K. Martin has erected a neat two-story building which he occupies as a restaurant and boarding house. Jones & Co. also have a two-story building in which they keep groceries and lunch.

Charles Dunger has erected a cottage as has also Mr. Schuette. A butcher shop was in course of construction and John Eifert and Emil Hillemann had the lumber on the ground to erect a building to be occupied by them as a saloon. Lots that sold for \$50 nine months ago are now selling at \$90. In fact the general appearance of things caused the editor to invest in four more lots.

Next come Ilmo. This townsite is owned by Illinois capitalists and lots are smaller and higher in price than at Edna. These lots are \$25x140 and range in price from \$75 to \$125. I believe there are also some at \$50. Only a few lots have been bought at this site.

Further on the townsite of Manning is reached, where Squire Kjer is the chief executive. It was laid out by Ig. McKinley and no lots have been sold since his death. But it is understood that the lots will again be put on the market soon. It contains a store and saloon.

Grayboro presents an active, yet uninviting appearance. The tooting of whistles, the clanging of bells, the puffing of the engines and the water in low places reminds one of East St. Louis. In population this town has increased faster than any other of the county. It contains now about 700 souls.

**County Court Proceedings.**  
This court met Monday morning in regular term. Up to Wednesday noon the following proceedings were had:

Louis LeGrand appointed road commissioner vice Chas. Strack, removed from district.

Dramshop license granted to Frank Felden at Rockview.

County petition filed by J. H. Moore et al dismissed at cost of petitioners.

Petition of Louis Unnerstall et al for location of public road—surveyor ordered to view and report.

Report of viewers of drainage ditch No. 6 filed and approved with amendment by court that viewers and engineer also view and report on probable cost of widening and deepening North Cut ditch at Belmont Branch R. R. straddle.

Jos. Stubeurauch loaned \$400 school money.

County farm medical practice for ensuing year awarded to Dr. Hawat \$150.

County farm let to John Spalding at \$2.38 per acre.

Outdoor relief to paupers allowed in aggregate sum of \$384.

Other allowances: Emory & Heiser, various supplies, \$41.35; sewer pipe, \$564; Jas. Kelly, working road, \$40; Oswald Kapper, repairing road, \$100; Ed Sparta, working roads, \$13; Adam Schuler, work on county farm fences, etc., \$25; W. Wade, quarterly salary, \$22.50; Joe Watkins, care of Grant Martin, prisoner, \$91.25; conveying insane to asylum, \$31.35; conveying and guarding Dr. Smith, \$18.50; boarding prisoners, \$265.50; jury meals, \$12.75; Fulton asylum, balance of account, \$44.90; John Ledure, opening new road, \$13.30; W. H. Heiser & Co. mer' dse, \$180.16 wire fence, \$29.64; Andy Robert, work, \$18.74; Dr. T. F. Frazer, inquest, \$38.50; Farmington asylum, \$118; C. J. Shaver, guarding Grant Martin, \$11.50; J. W. Farris, building bridge, \$25.50; Anton LeGrand, rebuilding cistern, \$7; Joe Strack, wood, \$3.75; Wm. Bissell, care of papers, \$246.92; Frank Kelly, salary, \$135; Dr. Haw, medical attendance on prisoners, \$38.50; Marshall Emory-McMullin Co., supplies for road, \$19.80; N. G. Hopper, care of Grant Martin, \$6; Standard Printing Co., \$15.70; Joe Stabler, right of way, \$50; A. De Beyer, for artesian well, \$1,378.21; J. P. Roberts, viewing drainage ditch, \$37; N. B. Cavannah, same, \$34; E. A. Kingsbury, same, \$28; J. E. Warner, ditch engineer, \$264.73; E. F. Hollingshead, balance on bridge, \$10; G. F. McCoy, road damages, \$35.

Road petition of T. F. Hinkle et al, commissioner appointed to view and report.

Road petitioned for by Johnstone Lead Co. ordered opened and \$100 appropriated.

Drainage petitions of R. F. Powell & Co., Bleda, and Ben Barnes, Sikeston, dismissed by petitioners at their cost.

Licensed to wed: John Q. Allen and Mrs. Arundel Perry, Frank McGeehan and Mrs. Julia Green, H. Berger and Anna Allen.

An infant was born to a woman on W. Bleda road and was named Wm. Bleda.

The doctors were in session at the Cape this week.