

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

VOL. 6

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NO. 27

Observations by the Kicker.

About "Undesirable Citizens."--Washington and Lincoln Were Classed as Such in their Day.

These "undesirable citizens" are a great source of annoyance to the ruling class. The men who are on top are satisfied to let "well enough alone." The same platitudes and "arguments" used in defense of existing conditions have been used for ages by the exploiters of the people. "Obey the law," is their cry, but they insist on making, interpreting and executing the law. To punish them there is no law.

But the "undesirable citizen" is always with us. And the preachers, teachers, editors, lawyers and officials of the time are hot on his trail. An "anarchist" they call him because he rebels against the injustices of the day. And the desire to get something for nothing on the part of the exploiters has been the universal cause.

Christ drove the money-changers (we call them capitalists) from the temple. They had polluted the house of worship into a "den of thieves," he said. Of course the Saviour was a very "undesirable citizen" and you need not be told what the ruling powers of that day did to him. And yet these same capitalists and public exploiters are the most active builders of churches, and the most liberal in supporting the ministry--provided, of course, that the church and the ministry point to the "best people" as examples of righteousness and morality, and the existing order as the one divinely ushered in.

It has been so in every age, and is so now. Dr. Boyd, one of the most prominent ministers of a fashionable St. Louis church, quit the ministry and gave as his reason that the rich regarded their minister as a third or fourth rate employe, and that his job was to keep the poor contented and submissive by promising happiness in the world to come.

In every age and in every country the revolutionists were of the humbler class. The "best people" never rebel. They have the courts, the army and all the other necessary machinery to make them perfectly satisfied. The only exception to this rule was when the South rebelled against the government in 1861. The people, with Lincoln in the lead, had peacefully overthrown the slave power, and the slave power fought to retain its "vested rights"--just as capital would do today, if overthrown, and its newspapers, teachers and politicians could fool enough people into believing that "the honor of the country" had been assailed. Of the happenings in America Eugene Debs writes:

The Tories, who owned the colonies under British rule, wanted no change. They were satisfied. Living on the fat of the land by absorbing, in arrogant idleness, what others produced in toil and self-denial, the tory element was in clover and, of course, wanted to remain there. Its organs violently denounced as traitors those who ventured to suggest a change of program. These miscreants included Paine, Franklin, Adams, Hancock, Washington, Jefferson, and a number of other "undesirable citizens," who have since become quite respectable. The tory has gone the way of flesh and is remembered only as an abomination.

Later on the southern plantation owners developed a powerful aristocracy on a foundation of chattel slavery. They wanted no change and scouted the idea that there would ever be any. They were satisfied. Why shouldn't they be? The exploiting element at the top of the social fabric, drawing its substance from the lower strata, has always wanted to be let alone, and that is as true today as ever before.

So the cotton kings grew very angry when anyone even hinted at a change. But the great forces beneath them were at work, as they are today. Again the agitation--inseparable from social development--asserted itself, and again the organs of the slave power thundered their anathema. A new crop of traitors had come to the front as always the case when they are needed. This time the list of "undesirables" included William Lloyd Garrison, Elijah Lovejoy, Gerrit Smith, Wendell Phillips, John Brown, Charles Sumner, Horace Greeley, Abraham Lincoln and a host of others who, in the eyes of the ruling dynasty, were as tough as ever cut a throat or scuttled a ship. The plantation aristocracy is gone and forgotten, and the traitors and anarchists have taken their place in history.

So it has been in the past, and so it will be in the future. The exploiting element of a decaying society sees only traitors and degen-

erates in the pioneers of the advancing order that is to supplant it. All its organs and functionaries are on the alert for signs of the dread intruder.

A vast brood of hirelings and mercenaries are its watchdogs. Their business is to sniff the air for "traitors" and "anarchists" and set up a furious barking when they see such mortal enemies of the ruling class. Even the fleas on the dogs cry out "anarchy." They want no change.

Men who write as Debs writes, and talk as Debs talks, are, and always have been, "undesirable citizens" in the eyes of the ruling class. Debs has never violated any law, neither has it been shown that either Moyer, Haywood or Pettibone have, yet the president of the United States publicly declares them to be "undesirable citizens."

When the fathers of this republic issued their declaration of independence from British rule, how the "watchdogs" and the "fleas on the dogs" did howl "treason."

When E. P. Lovejoy started the St. Louis Observer, a paper that opposed human slavery, he was the best hated man in the community, and his life was threatened. In 1836 he moved to Alton, Ill., where his press was three times destroyed by the "good people" of that town. When the fourth press was shipped in he was killed while defending it against a drunken mob. Lovejoy was a very "undesirable citizen" then. Today a thirty thousand dollar monument marks his resting place.

In Boston Wm. L. Garrison published an anti-slavery paper--the Liberator. He was dragged through the streets with a rope around his body and was rescued by the mayor, who lodged him in jail. On the wall of his cell Garrison wrote: "A respectable and influential mob sought to destroy me for preaching the abominable and dangerous doctrine that all men are born equal, and that all oppression is odious in the sight of God."

In Faneuil Hall, Boston, Wendell Phillips denounced the murder of Lovejoy and the treatment of Garrison, whereupon the "best people" mobbed and stoned Phillips.

John Brown was legally murdered because he "agitated" against human slavery. And a short while afterwards the tramp of soldiers could be heard all over this land marching to the tune of "John Brown's body lies mouldering in the ground."

When past history is taken into account, it is not surprising that the revolutionists of today take great pride in wearing badges on which is inscribed, "We are Undesirable Citizens."

In conclusion I may say that, as I see it, the revolution that means the end of the present system has begun and nothing can stop it. Immense wealth on the one hand and extreme poverty and suffering on the other has caused our state of society to become top-heavy and it is sure to tumble. And the more the "agitators" are imprisoned the more the people will realize their condition and the greater will swell the revolutionary army.

Since establishing this paper I have forecasted many events that afterwards occurred. I am a careful observer of what is going on and feel convinced that the "new order" is knocking at our door. Whether the change will come about peacefully, as the "agitators" desire, depends on the intelligence of the people and the stubbornness of the ruling powers.

The aim of the revolutionists is to so educate the people that they may vote intelligently and recapture their government at the ballot-box. In no other way do the "agitators" expect to make the change. To accomplish this they circulate literature, send out speakers, have many weekly newspapers and already three dailies in the United States--all of which the authorities try to suppress. Speakers are thrown into jails and the newspapers are harassed by the postoffice department.

Not an "agitator" in any part of the country counsels violence or bloodshed. All they ask is that you read, listen and think. They violate no law--and yet they can't keep out of jail.

The kidnaping and attempt to judicially murder the officers of the Western Federation of Miners has opened the eyes of the workers as

nothing else could. It has solidified labor and convinced the men who toil that a working man has no rights except such as the ruling class see fit to grant.

The country is in an upheaval and strikes are general. In San Francisco, last week street-car men were out on strike. Four hundred criminals and ex-convicts were brought in as strike-breakers, armed and placed on the cars. In going down town the cars were assaulted with stones and these thugs shot into the crowd, killing and wounding some fifteen or twenty persons, many of whom had nothing to do with the trouble. Three boys were shot. Public indignation was so great that the street railway monopoly had to call off its thugs.

But the courts are always with the "best people." They and their hireling thugs can do no wrong. You read of workmen being shot or jailed, but the hired thugs or their employers--never!

Over in Indiana a good judge has created a new law to break up labor-unions. The regulation injunction was issued against certain strikers and the home of one was sold to pay the costs--although the victim had violated no law and had nothing to do with the injunction proceedings. But the good judge held that he was a member of the same union and they confiscated his home to pay the costs. This is the crowd that is so fearful that their stolen property will be confiscated.

At the elections next year the exploiters of the people will again be successful, but in 1912--look out! The masses are having things pounded into them that brass bands, banners and booze will not make them forget.

Read it and see if you would arrest a dog on the evidence of such a man as it is claimed Orchard "confessed" himself to be.

On the fourth page of this paper appears a full history of the case, as given by the capitalist press. In it you will find the whole "case" from the mine owner's view. You will find that Stuenberg was murdered; that Harry Orchard exploded the bomb, and that Detective McPartland tortured him into making such a "confession" as was wanted.

The story, as it appears on the fourth page is practically the same story, except in condensed form. That was telegraphed all over the United States on the night that the men were kidnaped, and appeared in the papers the next morning.

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COUNTY UNION MEETING.

The county meeting of the Farmer's Educational and Co-Operative Union met with the Oran local on May 7 with all officers present.

The committee on credentials reported 139 delegates present representing 30 locals with a total membership of 1,053 and enough applications on file to pass the 1,100 mark of male members. There are also about 175 female members.

Harvey E. Moore, W. H. Tanner, and C. P. Stanley were appointed committee on resolutions and did satisfactory work.

W. H. Stone, of Oran local, was elected assistant business agent.

G. M. Tucker, of Bloiggett, gave the members an interesting talk on scientific farming.

Oran local initiated twelve members Tuesday evening.

Geo. A. Vinyard, County Secretary.

COUNTY GRADUATION.

All are invited to the exercises of the county graduates at the court house Saturday at 2 o'clock p. m. Music by the Benton Band and exercises by the graduates.

When Your Horse, Mule,

or other Domestic Animal is sick and in need of surgical or medical attention, why don't you try

Drs. Sawyer & Moore,

Veterinarians, Sikeston, Mo. Phone--Office, 131. Dr. Sawyer's Residence at Office and Hospital one block west of postoffice. Calls answered anywhere. Dr. Moore of Sawyer will be in Oran each Monday.

A. L. MILLS,

Justice of the Peace--Commerces, Mo. All business promptly attended to. COLLECTIONS A SPECIALTY.

DOINGS IN IDAHO.

There is nothing startling to report from Idaho concerning the trial of the Western Federation of Miners. All this week has been consumed in selecting jurors, and it is thought that the panel will be completed before the end of the week.

The governor and state administration of Idaho are Republican, while Ada county, where the trial is in progress is Democratic by 500. The sheriff was ordered to summon 100 men from which to select the jury. It is a strange fact that, up to latest reports, every man examined has been found to be a Republican and therefore in sympathy with the prosecution. Is that what the president calls a "square deal"?

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THE SOUTHEAST

Fire at Hasty destroyed the two-story brick, known as the Gaskin building, and the two frame buildings adjoining, on the 5th. The brick was occupied by a pool room, the Citizen's Bank, the telephone exchange and the law office of Sam Jeffries. One of the frame buildings was used by Tim Dorris as a grocery, while the other was Andrew Dorris' Mercantile Store. The loss was considerable with only \$1,400 insurance.

Illmo Headlight.--Dr. Cozzens, of Fredericktown, has been cited to appear before the State Board of Health to show cause why his license to practice medicine should not be revoked on the charge that he has abused the privilege by writing whiskey prescriptions.

Miss Allie Deason, 16 years old, was caught in a hail-storm near her home, near Cassville, on May 7, and was so injured it is feared she will not recover. Some of the hailstones were reported to have been as large as hen eggs.

Kennett has offered the Farmers' Union \$1,000 to locate one of their ginns at that place. Ordinarily a private enterprise would capture this bonus but in this case it goes to the farmers. So much for organization!

Charleston Republican.--Everett Gallyhart, of Diehlstadt, was assassinated at Frisco Hotel, St. Louis, Sunday night by blowing out the gas. The body was brought to Diehlstadt for burial.

The members of the Brick Cleaners' Union, at Charleston, who were engaged in cleaning brick in the ruins of the Russell block, went on strike for a raise of four cents per hundred last week.

John F. Morton, of Pocatento, was found dead in the rear yard of his home, last Sunday. It is not known whether the death was suicide or an accident.

Chas. Heagle, a timber cutter, working at Bucado, was arrested and lodged in Kennett jail, May 4, charged with the attempted rape of Mrs. Minnie Holt.

Weekly Republican.--Conductor Brucher brought in the news of the destruction by fire of Gibson, a small town on the Gulf road near Campbell.

Marshall Ross, postmaster at Passola, Mo., is in Jackson jail charged with embezzling over \$400 of the postoffice money.

\$252 loaned to G. Stabenraugh of Oran.

Assessment of Cape Telephone Co., raised from \$240 to \$500.

Change of road petitioned by John Bles et al granted.

Monday morning a storm could be seen approaching from the direction of Oran and the war clouds hung low. Besides the saloon forces there "rained" into town twenty-three ladies and several gentlemen. During the interval they had gathered much ammunition and were cheerful.

His brother's condition having improved, Judge Thomas was present when court opened. The first crack of thunder revealed Mr. DeReign standing before the court as Ajax defying the lightning. In his hands he held a recent decision of the St. Louis Court of Appeals in which it left no doubt as to the right of petitioners to withdraw their names at any time before final action is taken. The court, being convinced that it had ruled erroneously, reversed itself on this proposition and several names were stricken from the petition. From start to finish every inch of ground was stoutly contested.

The courtroom was pretty well crowded with interested parties. In fact, everybody seemed interested. The ladies of the Benton W. C. T. U. joined the Oran ladies, and at noon entertained them at dinner at the Rising Hotel. About the time the feast was going on a report came from Oran that quite a number of men had discovered that their cooks had "blew the coop" and were devouring "dogg" and crackers. The Oran ladies were expressed themselves as highly pleased with courtesies shown them by the ladies of Benton, and asked that the Kicker extend for them all sorts of thanks.

After noon the war continued until 4 o'clock, when both sides claimed victory. Mr. DeReign contended that the count was a "tie," while Mr. Arnold claimed a majority of one for the petition.

The count was submitted to the court and the crowd was much disappointed when decision was delayed. Many who were interested in the western drain ditch matter

COUNTY COURT DOINGS.

Oran and Benton Saloon Petitions Knocked Out.-- Court to View West Swamp Drain District.

Friday morning the petition of Joe Miller, of Oran, was taken up, and the Oran contingent occupied the front of the stage. Attorney Arnold appeared for the petition and Attorney DeReign for the opposition. As the case proceeded the opposition lost heart because of the adverse rulings of the majority of the court. With Judge Hutchason dissenting the court sustained the established custom of counting poll tax payers as "assessed, tax-paying citizens" as shown by the LAST PREVIOUS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT. It only requires a very short trip to the circuit court to straighten out that kink.

Another knock-out blow was the 2-to-1 ruling that signers of petitions had no right to withdraw their names after a petition had been filed. This ruling went the court of last year "one better," and Judge Hutchason again dissented.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon Judge Thomas was notified that his brother John was dangerously ill at Cape Girardeau and left the bench. The petitioners objected to proceeding without Judge Thomas on the bench and the matter was laid over until Monday. That was the mistake of their lives. During the interval the opposition "got busy."

Next came the taking up of the dramshop petition of Albert Ansell of the Rockview settlement. Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Bennett, Miss Dena Powell, W. D. and Sim Jones and Thos. G. Belk braved the rain to oppose the petition. The sheriff called Mr. Ansell but there was no answer. No one appeared for him and the petition was dismissed.

Saturday Judges Bugg and Hutchason transacted other business before the court, and the following allowances were made: U. P. Haw \$62.97; Stubbs, Marshall & Co. \$5.80; F. Ostner, \$90; Moore & Stubblefield, \$12.50; W. H. Bugg, \$16; Bettie Bryant, \$10; Hospital No. 1, \$1,000; Barnard & Co. \$218.97; J. C. Burton, \$6; Buxton & Skinner, \$22.95; Standard Printing Co., \$11.25; W. E. Harris, \$5; W. H. Heisserer, \$77.54; John Spalding, \$99.25; Jus. Mos Phoeters, \$30.17; B. Hugh Smith, \$174.20; J. H. Grant, \$120; J. M. Arnold, \$37.90; L. P. Guber, \$13; J. S. Nossid, cost in criminal cases \$567.83.

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were present and that was taken up, and the Oran people returned home without knowing the result of their three days' war.

After supper the court took up the count behind closed doors, with the result that Judge Thomas figured the "wets" one ahead; Judge Hutchason had the "drys" one in the majority, while Judge Bugg figured it a "draw." A "draw" it is, agreed Judge Hutchason, and the petition went under.

Had the "drys" lost, they had arranged to enjoin the granting of license until the circuit court could pass on the eligibility of poll tax payers as petitioners.

The result of the Miller petition decided the fate of the Geisner petition, which contained fewer signatures. And the joke of it was that Geisner neglected to sign his own petition and would have been counted against it had it been called up. Rather than undergo the mental torture that such an ordeal would surely have produced, Geisner concluded to let his petition sleep.

The West Swamp ditch hearing ended Wednesday afternoon, when the court decided to go down and view the situation before passing upon it. They will go Monday.

The saloon petition of L. S. Brock of Benton was called up and Attorney McWilliams, for the petition, asked more time. It was thought that the object of this move was to try to have some who had requested that their names be stricken off the petition reconsider. Some thought the object was to catch the opposition napping, but the ladies stayed "dressed up" all week and were ready for the fray on a moment's notice. The matter went over until next morning.

In the mean time the following allowances were made: J. T. Missett, \$25; Ferd Ostner, \$20; Hy. Missett, \$20; Ostner & Marshall, \$12.95; John Wilhelm, \$1; Chas. Rahmuller, \$29.50; Nick Ledure, \$4.35; Sikeston Merc. Co. \$3.80; Kicker, \$24.50; Louder Scott, \$10; Mary E. Gilstetter, \$5; Amelia DeBender, \$15; Cal. Garton, \$15; C. D. Matthews, \$20; L. P. Guber \$272; J. F. Rickett, \$17.80; John Engman, \$150.

Although the matter was set for 9, the ladies were on hand at 8 o'clock Thursday morning. When the case was called, Attorney McWilliams announced that the petition would be withdrawn. All the ladies were jubilant and Grand-ma Walker was drifting about like a girl. Said she: "He wanted us to go to him and ask him to withdraw it, but we wouldn't do it; we said we would beat him anyhow."

This will probably "settle the hash" for the saloon agitators in Oran and Benton for a while at least. Court is still in session.

THE PLATFORM BUILDERS.

Democratic statesmen and newspaper men are now busy in trying to formulate some sort of a platform by which they can catch votes. And the variety of "Democratic principles" are limited only by the variety of minds from which they spring.

At present the Democracy stands for everything--and nothing--and I would not fool away space with it were it not for the humor contained in the effort to jump up a "paramount issue."

Last week I printed what Bryan had to say, and if you discovered what he stood for you beat me. Lately the Francis-Wells organ of St. Louis sounded the "key note" and its pie-counts echoes throughout the state are reproducing it, here it is:

In the year which marks the centennial of the election of Thomas Jefferson to the Presidency the Democratic party, which Jefferson founded, will pledge itself to defend with all its might the principles of government which he established. In the defense of these principles there would be material for a campaign of patriotism without touching any other issues. But specific measures based upon these principles will be overlooked.

What's the matter with that for a "paramount issue?" Just tell 'em that you stand for Jeffersonian Democracy "without touching on any other issue." And say: be careful in drafting the platform that "specific measures based upon these principles will be overlooked."

"Specific measures" won't do. What is wanted is a movable platform that can be adjusted to suit the various brands of democracy now on tap.

Mid-Spring Announcement

OF THE

Farmers Merc. Co.

OF VANDUSER.

We are not going to tell you about any "Bargain Sale" or "Reduction Sale." With us every day is bargain day, and our prices are already so close that further reduction would mean loss to us. What we want to impress upon the public is the fact that we sell goods all the time at the lowest prices consistent with safe business methods, and we do not do this spasmodically, on certain days, but every day. Among other things we wish to announce that our Spring and Summer goods are in, and invite you to see our line of the famous

HAMILTON-BROWN SHOES!

For men, women and children. They fit and wear. We handle practically everything, but should you want anything not carried in stock, we are here to please the trade, and no trouble will be spared in getting for you articles not regularly carried.

WE WANT YOUR PRODUCE

And pay the top price for poultry, eggs, butter, lard, bacon, beeswax, tallow, shingles, wood, lumber, scrap iron, rags, bones--ANYTHING! We are agents for the Vulcan Chilled Plow. See us for what you need.

FARMERS MERC. CO., VANDUSER.