

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

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## WITH THE BEANVILLE NATIVES.

### The Gang Descends on Beanville With its Brass Band, Booze and Bluster.—Preacher Makes Principal Talk.

Having got the natives well stirred over the race for constable the announcement was made that there would be political speaking at the school house. On the appointed evening the patriots from Benton, accompanied by their rooters and the brass band, descended upon the natives. The band drew a large crowd and Lawyer Skinner opened the speaking with his laudation of Bryan—just as he had praised Cleveland sixteen years before. The natives were very religiously inclined and a preacher was taken along to make the principal address. Other lawyers also talked, and while this was going on the rooters tipped off certain ones and took them out to their vehicles where a liberal supply of booze was stored. They were very generous and friendly and urged all to stick to the party. Where it was considered a good investment, a few dollars were placed in the hands of a native to "spend among the boys." All who opposed them were denounced as demagogues and crooks, hired by the Republicans, and many yarns were "confidentially" put in circulation.

By the time the speaking was over some of the natives were pretty boozy and were shouting for Bryan. That was all they had heard—Bryan! The speakers had mentioned nothing else—except Hafner, whom they bitterly denounced. These methods were continued until the election. Where Bryan fell short in interesting a voter, the constable's race was brought to the front. But Bryan was kept in full view, for a vote for him meant a vote for the ticket, which included the county candidates. On election day Farmer Jones and the natives who had been given money were active in getting out the vote. The usual result followed, with a slightly decreased majority.

But, somehow, the natives were not pleased with the result. They felt that something was wrong, but could not locate that something. They reasoned that for thirty years they had voted as they had been persuaded to vote, and only a few fellows got a good living out of it. So far as they were concerned, they could see no betterment of their condition. This they were discussing as Mr. Hafner drove up, and Farmer Brown asked, "Well, how did the election suit you?"

"All right; how did it suit you folks?"

"Oh, I dunno," replied Brown. "Looks like we can't get anything down here. We thought we ought to had Smith for judge."

"Well, you remember what I told you at the start," the speaker went on. "I told you that Smith could never be county judge—not if the gang could help it. I understood the game they were playing on you, but I knew it would go no good. I tell you and concluded to let you go on butting your heads against the bricks and maybe you'd get your eyes open after a while."

"The fellows who run the politics of the county have been working that trick on the people for thirty years—and the people seem to enjoy it. Only last fall two men were duped into running for assessor in order to let Rodgers in—just as Smith was duped into running for county judge. These dummy candidates are always brought out in communities where the gang candidate is weakest in order to kill that vote. The dummies as a rule are innocent and are the victims of those whom they believe to be their friends."

"I could relate to you many instances, but will mention only one of the most glaring and heartless. It happened several years ago in the race for assessor. The interests are always concerned about the assessor. Frank Gangle, of Oran, was one of the several candidates and the German vote would have elected him. In order to save the candidate of 'the interests' it was necessary to kill the German vote."

"One day a good German farmer who lives about half way between Kelso and New Hamburg and is very generally related to those people, came into my office and asked to be announced as a candidate for assessor. I was astonished and at first thought he was joking. He had never before taken any part in politics and was not generally known. Inquiry revealed that he was in earnest and, of course, I understood."

"You don't know how hard it is to get the political bee out of a farmer's bonnet when it once gets to buzzing. Any suggestion that he is liable to meet defeat is almost sure to be accepted as an unfriendly act, and that you are against him—especially if you are in the newspaper business. Although it was a hazardous job, I set about to have him investigate further before announcing. I asked him to submit the matter to certain Germans whom I knew to be his friends and who also understood something about politics. One I mentioned was Squire Schoen."

"By questioning him I learned that he had received many solicitations by letter, and when he gave the names of the solicitors I recognized them as political rooters in various parts of the county. It also seemed that he had received much encouragement from friends (?) in the court house, and it was reluctantly that he agreed to postpone announcement and see further."

"The following week he came again. This time there was no holding him back. His brother was with him and they were on their way to Blodgett where his many supporters (?) had asked him to come and view the situation for himself. When I again tried to dissuade him he became angry and said: 'I didn't want to announce him he would go to the other paper. He was not familiar enough in politics to know that it was the custom at that time to announce in all the papers. It was up to me to take his money or let the other fellow get it. I took it and he and his brother went to Blodgett.'"

"When they arrived everything was in readiness. There was a saloon at Blodgett and the proprietor was a Republican. But that did not prevent him from adding the Democrats in carrying out their schemes. When the two returned to Benton I asked how they found things at Blodgett. Both were highly elated and assured me that they would carry that precinct solid—everybody was for the German candidate. I asked for the names of their most conspicuous supporters and they named them. At the election the German candidate got two votes at Blodgett. The ring candidate was successful, as usual."

"To this day these brethren are sore at me and regard the men who duped them as their best friends."

"I could mention any number of similar cases, but this was the most cruel of any that has come under my observation. It is not always that the dummy candidate is ignorant. Sometimes he is paid and deliberately announces himself as a candidate in order to kill the votes of his neighbors."

"As the speaker paused Farmer Brown shook his head as he muttered: 'I guess that's how they put the hooks to us—and that dead Farmer Jones is the fellow that pulled the chestnuts out of the fire for them in return for them making him road boss.'"

"You have a political oligarchy in your county as they have in quite all counties," the speaker went on. "This oligarchy is composed chiefly of your landlords and bankers—who nominate the candidates and then allow you the empty honor of electing them. Occasionally, when the people are aroused, a man not entirely to their liking slips in, but in that case they usually manage to get him 'right' by some means or other. One of the effective means is very simple. It requires men of wealth to sign official bonds, and when a man signs your bond you very naturally feel under obligations to him."

"It was my intention to go to the county records and get for you the names of the principal stockholders in our banks and business enterprises and show you how they resembled the names of the men on the bonds of your public officials, but this would require considerable time and I am very busy. I thought it would be sufficient to tell you that the men who own your county are also the bondsmen of your officials—and if you have any doubt about it you can go to the records and see for yourself. This situation is not peculiar to Scott county; it is so everywhere. Property rules."

"But the party lash seldom fails to bring a rebellious official to time. When a man goes to Benton he must either be with 'the party' or against it. There is no middle ground. For years I urged that we should vote for THE MAN. But, after a trial, I discovered my mistake. The man soon ceases to be a man in partisan politics and becomes a mere cog in a machine. At the crack of the whip he must either be with 'the party' or against it. The smoothest course is with 'the party' and that is usually followed. Folk tried the other route and you know what happened to him. And no matter how good a man is, nor how his sense of justice may revolt at the doings of his associates, he dare not utter a word detrimental to the party."

"Ex-Sheriff Ed Henderson can tell you how it works. He defied 'the interests' and refused to take free advice from Lawyer Skinner, the legal representative of 'the interests,' with the result that he came within fourteen votes of being defeated by Joe Watkins for his second term—although there was not a blemish on his record. Had he took 'advice' he would have had no opponent. Sheriff Henderson was raised here and knew all about the workings of the machine. Frequently good men elected to office become connected up with the 'machine' innocently and without realizing it. They really believe they are serving the people when, in fact, they are serving the county oligarchy of wealth."

"While he was on the farm the Kicker had no stronger friend and supporter than Sheriff Gopher. Ask his neighbors around Blodgett how he used to praise the paper. Assessor Book was also a loyal friend of the paper and, while teaching at Blodgett, he rendered valuable assistance by acting as its correspondent from that point. So long as he was on the farm the Kicker was also good enough for Collector Christman. All these men were its loyal supporters from its foundation. And the Kicker has not changed."

"But—"  
"When the landlords and bankers of the county, through Cashier Johnson of the county depository cracked the whip and said 'Get in line for a new paper to oppose the Kicker,' they got in line—and all took shares. And now 'the interests' and the officials are more closely allied than ever, because they are all business partners and associates, and in matters where 'the interests' are on one side of the controversy and an individual or the people on the other, it is only natural that the officials should lean toward their partners and business associates."

"Keep in mind that I am not finding fault with individuals. They are doing just what others must do if placed in their position. It is the system I am in revolt against, and so long as you do not change that, the electing of 'clean men' will help but little. Taken as a whole, I believe we have as good a set of public officials in Scott county as anywhere, and better than in some counties, but property rules—and it rules through your officials. This is plainly visible to every observer."

"Although the tenant farmers and wage-laborers are overwhelmingly in the majority, yet your grand juries are composed almost exclusively of the propertied class. Especially is the foreman a banker or 'leading business man.' No matter what crimes the propertied class commit, the matter seldom gets beyond such a grand jury. But a poor devil—he gets his dose quick. At this very moment the officials are violating a law that would result in fine and imprisonment if violated by persons not in power. The law regulating the letting of public printing is very plain and is being openly and notoriously violated by the men sworn to obey it, but THEY ARE THE LAW, so what are you going to do about it?"

"We hear a great deal about the 'sanctity of the law,' and 'respect for courts,' and so on. This is pumped into us by the ruling class and its organs. We are asked to accept the law as handed to us by them. The fact is, we have no law. We are living in a state of anarchy, and the laws that govern us are 'handed down' by the courts of the privileged class. Even when public sentiment compels our law-makers to enact some relief measures for the masses, it is 'injected' out of existence by the courts of the propertied class."

"Here a red-nosed fellow over in the corner, who evidently had not divided up his liquor with the boys according to instructions, got up and put in: 'You was popin' off a while ago about 'em foolin' a Dutchman into runnin' for assessor. I noticed you didn't know 'nuff about it to tell us his name.'"

"I did not think it necessary," the speaker went on, "but if you want details, I would suggest that you see Theophil Scherer. It was his brother, Wendoline, who went to Blodgett with him."

"'Yep, I remember,' interrupted Farmer Brown. 'I was that. The whole town was fer 'em—especially the fellers around the saloon. I remember now. He got two votes—one was Jake Gehrig and the other was another German—I don't remember his name now.'"

"Their game is easily understood," continued the speaker, "and why the people continue to allow themselves to be fooled I can't understand. You all remember how Early Ellis was brought out to split up the vote in Commerce township and in the hills when Charley Stone ran against Mr. McPheeters, and even then Mr. McPheeters had a lead of only about seventy votes. Stone lived in Commerce and had many friends in the hills. So did Ellis. I was told that Ellis was not in the county on the day of the primary. Whether that is true or not I do not know. But he received something over one hundred votes in Stone's stronghold which let his opponent win by a small margin. And after working all such tricks and schemes the politicians and their organs will tell the people that they had a voice in the selection of candidates and are in honor bound to support the successful nominees."

"How many of you know why Vanduser and Crowder are in the same judicial district with Gray-brook? I will tell you. The seat of our county government is at Sikeston. The interests at Blodgett, Oran and other points are only branches and do business largely on Sikeston capital. Therefore the interests at Sikeston want control of the county court—as well as of other officials."

"The northeastern end of the county is populated with farmers independent of the interests and they always fought hard for a judge from their end of the district. This move was always opposed by the interests usually through a man brought out from down about Buggy Ridge or the Batts neighborhood, or a 'sate' man from some other locality in the lower half of the district. When necessary a dummy candidate was put out in the hills to kill that vote. But, in spite of these precautions, Julius Albrecht succeeded in slipping in."

"Something had to be done—and it was done. They had the county court to top off a chunk of Richland township and add it to Morley township. Two polling places were established—Vanduser and Crowder—and that gave the lower end of the district the balance of power until the new towns sprang up in the north end. And while every one of these new precincts give Democratic majorities, yet we have a Republican county judge from the second district. And you will not find a Democrat nodding with this Republican judge. I leave it for you to figure out."

(Continued next week.)

From a Milwaukee, Wis., Associated Press dispatch we get the following interesting statistics: "There are 14,235,451 Roman Catholics in the United States, according to the advance sheets of the 1909 Wilton's official Catholic directory, published in this city. The statistics are furnished by the archbishops and bishops of the United States after a taking of a census in all dioceses. Added to the 14,235,451 the number of Roman Catholics in the Philippines, Porto Rico and Hawaiian Islands brings the grand total of Catholics under the United States flag to 22,474,440, as compared with 12,053,000 Catholic subjects under the British flag."

## CURBING THE TRUSTS.

Gov. Hadley says the state must put the halter on the trusts and recommends that the legislature create a board or commission whose duty it shall be to hold them in check. The result will be a few more pegs to hang politicians on at fat salaries. The trusts won't mind that. In fact, they will be glad to furnish the material for the commission.

It does seem to me that if there is anything the average statesman don't know anything about, it is government. Just now they are busy trying to oust the farm machinery trust from the state. Of course it is all a play to the galleries. It will never be done. In fact, it is impossible—and if the men engaged in the performance don't know this, they haven't got sense enough to pound sand in a rat hole.

What would happen if the harvest trust were driven from the state? Wouldn't it bankrupt every farmer? Where would he get machinery and "extras"? The harvest trust controls all these, and can't a blind man see what would happen if it were denied the right to do business in the state?

The antics of the jackasses we call statesmen would be amusing were the matter not so serious. The thing to do is not to destroy the trust nor drive it out, but let the people own it.

## THE REASON FOR IT.

Since Christ was such a friend of the poor and so bitterly denounced the "money changers," it sets one to thinking when we see his alleged followers of today taking the directly opposite view. In every civilized country the church defends the existing conditions of rule of property—just as it defended chattel slavery fifty years ago. But this is not surprising when we read such a line of fellows—taken from Sunday's Post-Discatcher.

"The Rev. Father Gerard D. Power, whose death occurred Nov. 5 at St. Mary and Joseph's church in Carondelet, was possessed of wealth of which his warmest friends knew but little. "An inventory of the estate, just filed by the Mississippi Valley Trust Co., executors under Father Power's will, lists personal and real property to the amount of \$124,819.20. Besides the listed property Father Power left approximately \$84,000 worth of mining stocks and other securities, which may or may not be of value. Cash, stocks, bonds and other good securities listed as personal property total \$74,019.20. The real estate he left, amounting to approximately \$50,000, consists of a row of modern flats on Maple avenue and residences on Cottage, Cook, Shaw and Knox avenues."

## THE ISSUE.

That Scott County Kicker offers a new law to any Democrat who will tell the paramount issue of the Democrat party in 1912. That is dead easy. The paramount issue of the Democrat party in 1912 will be to get elected. Please send the hat number seven and a half by return mail or express. Any old hat will do.—Missouri Sharp-shooter.

The Sharp-shooter was a noted Bryan organ last fall and its editor claims to publish the only Democratic paper in Phelps county. His answer is the only one possible at this time—for nobody knows what the Democratic hobby will be ten years hence.

While the Sharp-shooter is judging the future by the past and has exhibited marked honesty and frankness in his reply, yet the Kicker will withhold sending the hat until he sees it in the platform.

## WANTED AS A "PULLER."

It is stated on good authority that the defeat of Joseph W. Folk for United States Senator does not place him on the political shelf, but he will come again in two years from now and contest for the seat of Major William Warner.—Dexter Messenger.

Why, of course. The "party" must have a "puller," and the very crowd that defeated Folk this time and will defeat him next time, will see to it that his name is on the ticket. What could the old state gang do without a "puller?"

About a month ago a craze originated at Cleveland, Ohio, and spread over the country. Societies were organized in which the members pledged themselves to live as Jesus lived. Thousands entered upon the scheme and many abandoned it after a trial—saying it was impossible under existing conditions. But one R. A. Graham stuck, and Saturday it was announced that he was found naked and frozen to death. That is about what would happen to anyone who tried to live as Jesus lived.

## QUEER THINGS HAPPENING.

Queer things are happening these days. On Friday of last week the nation celebrated Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Lincoln was a very "undesirable citizen" to the ruling class of his day—the chattered slave aristocracy of the south—yet the wage-slave aristocracy of today at least pretend to honor his memory.

The Rev. John E. Long, a Presbyterian minister, of New York, celebrated the day most fittingly by forcibly recalling to thousands the wrongs that Lincoln died to right. He advertised a sale of white slaves in his church and to John D. Rockefeller he sent a special invitation. But John D. sent his regrets.

On Lincoln day the church was crowded. Fifty white men, young and old, were put on the auction block and offered to any who would give them a home, or a job by which they might earn a living. The men were numbered as they are numbered in the mines and factories. An associated press dispatch says:

"No. 10, the first man auctioned, was described by the auctioneer as an iron worker and molder, long out of work, and willing to accept any kind of employment. Several intending 'purchasers' walked to the platform and examined the man, even going so far as to feel of the man's muscles, as in slavery days. He was sold to W. E. Copeland, and it was announced that he would be given employment by an industrial association in New York."

"No. 14, a gray-haired man, was taken away by a young man who said he would give him a home, while No. 20, a palmer, was sold to a Newark man for the promise of a job at \$10 per week."

By the time six o'clock had been disposed of the auctioneer and the spectators, touched by the scenes they had witnessed, formed a mob, and took charge of the remaining forty-seven men, promising to find homes and employment for them.

The Reverend Long's action, was in reality, an object lesson on conditions among the unemployed. Before the sale began he outlined his plan, and spoke of the pitiable condition of those who were willing to work but unable to find employment. The church was not large enough to hold the crowd that surged about the doors to hear the Long's address and witness the white-slave sale."

Reader, you will notice that as soon as these present "razed" the true conditions, the men were provided for. All this is necessary to bring about a universal change is to get the facts before the people. To prevent this, the ruling class try to drive out all politicians not under their control. And they are after the Kicker—just that.

## THINK IT OVER.

A press dispatch from New Orleans, dated Feb. 11, reads: "An attempted Socialist demonstration in Lafayette Square, where President-elect Taft spoke this afternoon, was suppressed in the following manner: 'Shortly before noon, a group of Socialists, hearing of the fact, gathered in Lafayette Square, where they should have held a public meeting and 'troubled the waters,' but the Socialist leaders were hung out from a house on the Square.'"

"Members of an anti-social demonstration were also to be seen in the district which is the home of the Socialists, and they were hung out from a house on the Square."

Now what do you think of that "free" society? The inmates of the house, the dispatch goes on to say, were Socialists and hung out a banner on which was asked the question: "Why should one man hold another's job," and this so incensed the ruling class that the police ordered the banner torn down."

Think it over, Mr. Workingman. You know they tell you about your freedom and liberty, but suppose you hung out a strip of cloth from your window on which was painted "Why should one man hold another's job," and the sheriff or constable came along and made you take it down, what would you think then?"

Well, this is just as liable to happen to you as to the family in New Orleans. We are all in "free" America, you know. The ruling class cannot meet the Socialists in any other way. If you think they can, try to get one of them to answer the question printed on the banner that was so obnoxious that the police ordered it removed.

Strayed.—A red muley steer, marked with crop and split in left and underside in right ear. Also red and white spotted heifer with same marks. Both three years old this next spring. Heward, John W. Heeb, Chaffee, Mo. (13-3-.)

## POLITICAL HISTORY.

Brother Hafner of the Scott County Kicker speaks about the Republican party being founded in the Fifties. He is a little off on ancient history. We were there and know whereof we speak. The parties opposing the Democrat party up to 1860 were the Whigs, the Free Soilers and the Know Nothings. The Republican party as a political party was not on deck until in the sixties. Abraham Lincoln, the first candidate of the Republican party was elected in 1860 and took his seat along with the Rebellion in 1861.—Missouri Sharp-shooter.

Well, I wasn't there and get my information from the Platform text book which I consider reliable. It tells me that the Republicans held their convention in Philadelphia in 1856 and nominated John C. Fremont for president.

According to your story, the Republican party was born, formulated a platform, nominated Lincoln and elected him in 1860. That doesn't sound reasonable, but since you were there—well I wasn't.

## THE SOUTHEAST.

Cape Republican. The committee of Woodmen of the World that will have charge of the state convention to be held here beginning March 1st at the Commercial Club Tuesday night to make reports. There was a large attendance and there is no doubt that the delegates will be made to see the importance of Cape Girardeau. It has been decided that on the second night of the meeting the visitors and citizens will be entertained at the Normal school and then all the points of interest will be visited. Special street cars will be secured to take the delegates on a tour and they will be kept busy every minute they are here. The court house has been decorated for the occasion. It is expected that between 100 and 200 delegates, representing all the counties in the state, will be present. At the meeting in Kansas City last year there were about 300 in attendance. Delegates have been received already that the counties of southeast Missouri will send big delegations and, as the meeting will last two days, it promises to be the big event of the year.

Missouri Historian.—Say, it's not amusing to read accounts of the lieutenant-governorship of this state. The Democrats say that after a lot of fraudulent votes had been allowed to go through as legal, Graham was elected. The Republicans say that when the Democrats suggested that a new thousand votes not properly obtained be excluded from the State's total, and that the Republicans suggested a recount for Kansas City, that the Democrats shut up like a clam, and said they were not to be elected. The Democrats say that Graham was elected by counting illegal votes, while the Republicans claim that in allowing him to be seated, and voting that way themselves, the Democrats acknowledged that they could not undergo a recount of Kansas City. It is probable that both are right.

Dexter Messenger. The state university is crying for more funds at the hands of the state legislators. The people of the rural districts are wondering if it is possible for them to be paid. If the legislators will hand the thousands of the people's money to the university of this year, and apply the funds to building up better rural schools where the next generation will get an education, the state would be a better place. It is a long and tedious process to get the average amount to ever reach the university. What education they get must be financed at home.

That W. Solder, an Essex druggist who was thought to be getting on well, slipped out last week before going to be assured about \$100,000 from various banks and private parties on forged notes. A Dexter paper says he "was prominent in a social and business way and in lodge circles," and was "supposed to be a man of honor and integrity."

Cape Republican. Tanner & McCoy, real estate dealers at Sikeston, Thursday let the contract to a Sikeston firm for the erection of the finest building in that town. It will cost \$30,000. The lower floor will be used for store rooms and the second floor will be divided into modern offices.

Malden Merit. There will be a mass meeting of the Farmers Union held in this city on Thursday March 4th, 1909. There will be delegates here to represent local Unions from four adjoining counties, viz: Pemiscot, New Madrid, Stoddard and Butler.

John Lape, who killed his half-brother, Ed. Lape, at Allenville, was held blameless at the hearing. Ed was drunk and attempted to assault his brother with a knife.

Sixty men were discharged from the Frisco shops at Cape Girardeau, last week, to join the army of the unemployed. Prosperitee!

Southeast Missouri—especially the extreme end—is the worst land lord ridden section of the state.