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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9, 1901.

IGNATIUS DONNELLY.

The most picturesque figure in Minnesota politics for the last forty years has passed away. Ignatius Donnelly, the Sage of Nininger, died at Minneapolis Jan. 1, from a sudden attack of heart failure.

Ignatius Donnelly was born in Philadelphia Nov. 5, 1830. He was educated in the public schools and afterwards studied law. In 1857 he was admitted to the bar, but he soon abandoned that profession for the field of literature and politics. He removed to Nininger, Dakota county, Minn., in 1857, and established a weekly paper. At the first state election in Minnesota Donnelly was elected lieutenant governor, and was re-elected in 1861. In 1863 he was elected to congress. Having incurred the lasting enmity of Wheelock and Washburn, he was relegated to private life at the end of his third term. Since that time he has served eight years in the state senate and four in the house of representatives of the legislature. He has twice been candidate for congressman, but the same potent influences that defeated him in 1865 again were too much for him.

Donnelly was one of the leaders in the Granger movement of the early '70's and of the Alliance movement in the '80's. In 1892 he was the peoples party candidate for governor, but was overwhelmingly defeated.

During the intervals in his work as politician Donnelly found time to do some literary work, which shows the wonderful genius of the man and will endure when his political work shall have been forgotten. His most important works are "Ragnarok," "Atlantis," "The Great Cryptogram" and "Dr. Huguet." Besides these he has written several political works necessarily of an ephemeral character. While there are many erratic and apparently wild theories propounded in his books they display a brilliant genius, deep researches and a wonderful command of language. His "Great Cryptogram" may not have proved that there was a Baconian cypher in the Shakespeare plays, but it did prove that the mind that could read that cypher into the plays, if it did not exist, or work it out if it was there, was a wonderful one.

There is an old adage that we should say nothing but good of the dead. That is a foolish and even harmful saying. Whatever we say can neither harm nor please the dead. But every life conveys some great lesson if rightfully studied, and the greater the man the more important the lesson. In order to learn that lesson it is necessary to tell the truth. Gifted as he was so far beyond the ordinary mortal, why did not Donnelly leave more of an impression on the political world? He had a command of language unequalled by any other public man of his day; logical, quick to see a point and press it home; witty, and ever ready; a remarkable memory; an untiring energy for delving into abstruse subjects; and a physical constitution that enabled him to do an immense amount of mental work. His whole heart and soul was in his political work. Literature was only his relaxation. Yet if he lives at all in the minds of coming generations it will be for his literary work. Why did he not become a great national leader?

Ah, there was one great flaw in that otherwise great character. It was his intense egotism. He loved humanity in general and dreamed great dreams of reforming the social conditions and making future generations happier than those of the present and the past. Seated in his library and dreaming these dreams, there was no more altruistic person than Donnelly. But in all these reforms there was to be one central figure—Ignatius Donnelly. He was to do the work, and reap the glory. When the Granger and Alliance movements were organized they were to him the means for executing the plans of Ignatius Donnelly. The peoples party was in his eyes another more promising tool for the same purpose. And whenever an organization refused to lend itself to such use he was ready to destroy it. His genius made him a splendid agitator and organizer of reform forces; his egotism made him a disorganizer, dangerous to any cause he espoused. His egotism made him intensely jealous of other leaders in the party. His dictatorial style made him enemies inside of the party as well as outside. In private life he was a very pleasant companion, loved by all he came in contact with, for his genius made his companions admire him, and there was nothing to ruffle him. In public life he lived to see almost all of his old political friends estranged from him on account of that one fault. Had

Donnelly been able to forget himself the people would have remembered him better. His dangerous gift of satire made him many enemies, and as disappointment soured his naturally genial temperament that satirical leaning became more and more prominent, and finally degenerated into billingsgate abuse. When he had reached that stage he had lost his power, for few people enjoy such language and have any faith in the high motives of the man that uses it.

"He that humbly himself shall be exalted." Had Donnelly been able to learn that lesson he might have lived in the annals of history as one of the master minds and greatest reformers of the 19th century. What a pity that one fault, uncurbed and therefore growing year by year, should spoil such a glorious possibility. That is the lesson of Ignatius Donnelly's life.

He who would know Donnelly at his best as an altruist, an advocate of justice and equality, a champion of the lowly, and an eloquent and powerful orator, should not turn to the files of the Representative, but read "Dr. Huguet." He who would learn to appreciate the logical force, the deep researches, the complete grasp of almost every department of human knowledge that characterized the "Sage of Nininger" should read "Ragnarok," "Atlantis" and "The Great Cryptogram." In these works Donnelly forgot himself, and therefore his brilliant genius was unlettered and showed itself as it really was.

THE MARCH OF "PROGRESS."

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—According to Capt. S. E. Smiley of the Fifteenth United States Infantry, who passed through Chicago yesterday on his way to Washington, the phonograph played an important part in the negotiations which preceded the signing of the treaty between this country and the sultan of the Sulu archipelago.

Capt. Smiley was a member of Gen. Bates' staff, military commander of the department of Southern Luzon, and accompanied that official on the tour of the islands under the jurisdiction of the sultan, which resulted in the execution of the celebrated treaty.

"We made the trip from Manila to the islands on the cruiser Charleston, which has since been lost," said Capt. Smiley. "It happened that we had a phonograph along. It was more a matter of chance than anything else that it was taken, but it came in useful before we got through with our work. When we reached the home of the sultan we invited him to come aboard our ship and sent a cutter and guard to escort him. He accepted the invitation, and after every body had taken their positions on deck under a cool awning, Gen. Bates stated the object of the conference, and the formal negotiations were begun. I shall never forget the picturesque sight presented by the sultan and his court. Their attire consisted chiefly of bracelets, feathers, and ivory ornaments, but as the day was warm the garb seemed peculiarly appropriate. We succeeded in making the sultan understand our mission in a measure through the services of an interpreter, but he seemed suspicious and acted as if he wanted us to do something to convince him of our power.

"After the treaty had been drafted we tried all kinds of schemes to get the sultan to sign it, so as to conclude the negotiations, but without success. He seemed friendly enough throughout our talk, but he adopted a dilatory policy for some reason or other. Finally somebody thought of the phonograph which was stowed away in the cabin of the ship, and it was brought on deck. It was set in position, the big funnel adjusted, the cylinder made to revolve. In a moment all thoughts of diplomatic matters were forgotten.

"The strains of 'All Coons Look Alike to Me' and other rag-time ditties rolled out of the funnel attached to the instrument and were wafted seaward. The effect of the music on the sultan was magical. He was surprised beyond expression. The music caused a panic among the members of his party, who thought the instrument a device of the devil, and threw themselves on the deck and prayed loudly all the while the concert was in progress. The sultan made a careful examination of the instrument and shook his head in astonishment. Finally he was allowed to talk into the machine in his native tongue, and his surprise was even more pronounced when a moment later the words he had spoken were repeated through the funnel, to the consternation of his court.

"This pleased the sultan greatly and he asked if he could send a message to the governor of one of his islands 200 miles away. We told him he could and he spoke a series of orders into the machine. He signed the treaty before we left him and we had no end of amusement later exhibiting the machine, with the sultan's speech to the different governors and subordinate officials. They recognized his voice in an instant and were thrown into a state of terror every time we set the machine working."

THAT IS WHY.

Chairman Roseng, in stating the fact that the democrats would not contest Van Sant's election, let himself down as easily as possible by stating his belief that Lind was elected. If so, why not contest? This will be the question that will rise to everybody's lips.—News.

Why not contest? Because a contest under our laws would cost between twenty-five and fifty thousand dollars, and Gov. Lind is a poor man; because a contest would have to be begun and prosecuted by the republican attorney general, who would not be likely to fight the case very vigorously; because it would require eight or ten months to settle the question; because John

Lind does not care to be governor, especially when a thousand republican sleuth-hounds are dogging his steps, misrepresenting and slandering him and placing every obstacle possible in his way to prevent his bringing the rascals to time and making them pay their taxes. No one who has investigated the matter doubts for a moment that Gov. Lind is honestly re-elected or that a contest would not give him a seat. But under the circumstances the game is not worth the candle.—Fairmont Sentinel.

John P. Altgeld, the Illinois patriot, says: "In regard to the future we must trust to the ultimate triumph of justice. We do not want to win if the democratic party must be mortgaged to Wall street, as it was each time we elected Cleveland. If the government must be run by corrupt Hamiltonianism we want the republicans to do it. The democratic party must stand for equality and justice, or else it has no mission. It is far more glorious to fight for these eternal principles and go down than to betray them and win. Further, in the end these principles will triumph. As for Mr. Bryan, he has made the greatest fight for the cause of humanity ever made on this continent, and is still the idol of the people. He is 2,000,000 votes stronger than any other man in our party. As a rule, the men who talk about reorganizing the democratic party are mere corporation creatures who supported McKinley because they were not permitted to run the democratic party."

Already, before any appointments had been announced by Gov. Van Sant, the republican papers are talking of "sure spots that will be hard to beat." The governor has stated that the number of applications received to date number in the vicinity of 15,000. That seems incredible, but it was so stated in an evening paper. If that is true, then Kandiyohi county's 180 share would be about 180. Strange, isn't it, to find so many self-sacrificing patriots among the republicans. Times are always so good during republican rule, don't they know, that there is no money in holding office. It is sad to think of the large number of applicants who will be forced to continue to make more money than they would if their proposals had been accepted.

Here are some facts for those interested in free delivery mail routes:

There are fifty-one rural free delivery routes in Minnesota. There are sixty-three applications for routes on file at the post-office department at Washington. Twenty-six routes have been established in the state during the year. Thirty-one postoffices have discontinued by the establishing of this service. Nearly two million dollars will be spent during 1901 in establishing this service throughout the country.

Today Van Sant drops into the seat that John Lind has filled during the last two years. Van will rattle around considerably but the politicians have so many strings on him that there is no danger of his getting lost.

On the third page of this issue will be found a complete chronological record of the important events of the past year. It is a good thing to file away for future reference.

A Letter from St. Paul.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 7, 1901.

The all-absorbing topic of discussion here is the senatorial situation. Bob Evans has lost strength the last two days to both Tawney and Clapp. No one thinks Tawney stands any show, but he will hold his vote to deliver it to some one else when the proper time comes. It looks like Clapp now, but there are rumors that Tom Lowry will enter the race. An employe of the G. N., and one who is close to J. J. Hill, stated that J. Pierpont Morgan has induced Hill to pull off his fight on Lowry. If that is true Tom is likely to capture the prize if he enters the race.

Henry Feig is here and has been for the past week. He is said to be looking for a place on the Board of Appeals, and is likely to land it.

Other parties from Willmar who were much in evidence at the Windsor were C. A. Wharton, L. O. Thorpe, Alton Crosby, Dave Tallman, Eddie Boyd, Will Markhus and P. A. Gandrud.

Tributes to the Departed Donnelly.

The death of no public man in Minnesota has received more general notice than that of Ignatius Donnelly. We give herewith a few opinions culled from our exchanges:

Ignatius Donnelly is dead. In the literary world he was noted as Minnesota's most conspicuous figure. It was as a politician, lecturer and orator that he was best known to the people of the state. He was a brainy man.—Litchfield Review.

While he regarded politics and controversy as diversions merely, and considered his literary works as his best claim to enduring fame, he will doubtless be remembered longest for his ability as a stump speaker, his Irish wit and quickness at repartee, in which he was excelled by no man in America.—Wheelock's Weekly.

One of the brainiest men that ever claimed Minnesota for his home. We will attempt no obituary. He who would essay the task must be a word painter par excellence. The best description we can think of for Donnelly is a sane Don Quixote with the intellectual power of Daniel Webster.—Broken Ridge Telegram.

He was a remarkable man. Whether in the field of literature, science or politics, he was equally startling and became equally famous for his novel and unique ideas. He had a wonderfully brilliant mind, was a ripe scholar, particularly in literature, and a conspicuous politician.—Hutchinson Leader.

The death of Ignatius Donnelly closes the career of one of the most talented and most erratic men of the century. In the literary world he had but few equals among his contemporaries. His "Casar's Column," published in 1890, created a genuine sensation. The author hid his identity behind a woman de plume until he had drawn the criticism of the most eminent men of the country to his work free from any personal prejudice they might have against himself.—National Watchman.

Probably few have even dipped into more fields of research, and few have come to more original conclusions. He was an industrious man and he was a serious man. He had many friends and many enemies, and usually his friends were at close as his enemies were bitter.—Winona Leader.

His volatile temperament prevented him from taking places in affairs of state which less brainy men have filled, but few Minnesota men will be longer remembered than Ignatius Donnelly.—Glenwood Press.

A man of strong convictions as to his duty, and never swerving from what he thought was right even at the expense of losing prestige and financial gain.—Renville Star-Farmer.

In the death of Ignatius Donnelly the world of letters loses a good man. Mr. Donnelly made a mistake when he entered politics. He was not adapted to that kind of work, and he was too broad and cultured to engage in the work of petty wire pulling and peculiarly conniving of modern politicians. Mr. Donnelly was an earnest, honest, conscientious worker.—Mankato Journal.

Wherever placed he was a man of mark, whose influence and genius was felt. He was an orator of exceptional ability and a student and writer of established reputation.—Willmar Gazette.

He was rather a man of theory than of practice and though his books had a great sale he never managed to make much money from them and died a poor man. He was one of those men whose works are not fully appreciated until after his death.—New London Times.

Intellectually Mr. Donnelly had great strength and, but for his hatred of rivals and intrigues, could have been an irresistible leader.—National Republican (Preston).

Mr. Donnelly was a man of rare intellectuality and perhaps more widely known than any other man in Minnesota. Personally Mr. Donnelly was a cultured, refined gentleman, of winning disposition and will be remembered as one of the brightest intellects the state produced.—St. Peter Free Press.

Without doubt Ignatius Donnelly was one of the greatest literary geniuses the world has ever known. "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country," and so it was with Donnelly. Politics was his undoing. The memory of Donnelly the politician will die, but that of Donnelly, the author, will go down in history as one of the most famous figures in literature. For Donnelly, the author, we weep.—People's Press, Crookston.

BOEN'S TRIBUTE TO DONNELLY.

He was permitted to see the first day of the Twentieth century and at midnight, at the end of that day his earthly career ended.

Ignatius Donnelly was a mental meteor, who, as he swept over the intellectual heavens, held the attention of all observers.

He was the brightest man in the brightest race on earth.

According to the notions of the average man Donnelly had many faults; according to his own ideas of it he had few, if any.

Early in his political career he objected strongly to the prevalent plundering of the national treasury, and that brought down upon him the bitter opposition of the politicians. From that time on his life's work was a continuous battle against official corruption of all kinds.

In 1888 Donnelly accepted the Union Labor Party's nomination for governor. Soon after that he stumped the state for William A. Merriam for governor, and that sealed his political fate.

Now that Donnelly is dead the people look justly upon him as the most conspicuous man the state ever had. And those who were so fortunate as to know him intimately will never forget the kindly nature and the matchless ability of Ignatius Donnelly.—Fergus Globe.

His fame will rest upon his books, and these are characteristic of the man—able, iconoclastic and more or less absurd. Perhaps the unborn sons will discover in him a prophetic little understood by his generation, and will place the wreath of fame upon his memory. Who knows? To his eloquence, his wit, his genial qualities, his temporary popularity will gladly pay tribute, while lamenting that his other qualities seemingly robbed him of the success that should have been his due.—St. Cloud Journal-Press.

He was one of the greatest men of his time, and his death has caused a vacancy that cannot be filled, and will be universally regretted.—St. Paul Broad Ax.

It was not Ignatius Donnelly, lecturer and author, who was unpopular in this state. It was only Ignatius Donnelly, politician, against whom shafts of criticism have been aimed. But take him all in all, he was a wonderful man, and one of the like of whom the state will not again see.—Benson Monitor.

His death and that of Senator Davis removes two of the most distinguished men of our state within the brief period of a few weeks. The name of Ignatius Donnelly was synonymous with that of the state of Minnesota—in fact he was in many places better known than is our beloved North Star state.—Glenwood Herald.

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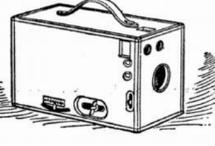
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