

Pierre Weekly Free Press

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PIERRE, S. D.

Alfalfa experts claim that the west of the river country will some day produce the bulk of the world's alfalfa seed.

The Mexican mess grows more unsavory and Mr. Wilson may find a problem on his hands that will temporarily eclipse the tariff.

Judging by the number of Wilsons who are out after jobs the rest of us ought to be glad that a man named Jones wasn't elected president.

The penitentiary investigating committee has returned from its trip to that institution and will shape up its report within a few days for presentation to two the houses of the legislature.

In order to equalize the distance between Chamberlain and Rapid City into two divisions, the Milwaukee officials are contemplating the removal of the round house railroad shops from Murdo to Kadoka.

One month more for President Taft. From the number of appointment being hurried to the senate, it looks as if the president was trying to avoid the rush during the last few days of his administration.

The doctors and scientists are all the time telling us what to eat but a great part of the population is tired of weighing the arguments for what it shall or shall not eat, and has come to the conclusion that whatever appeals to be digested is good enough.

The legislature is asked to pass a bill forbidding the giving away of trading stamps and similar premiums by merchants. Such a bill would be a good thing for a man who wants to do business on the merits of his goods and the consumer might profit thereby.

So far as disclosed the only member of the new senate who will own up to the third party designation is Poindexter, of Washington. Dixon, of Montana, would be glad to share the honor with Neighbor Poindexter, but alas! Dixon will not be there.

Governor Wilson is believed to be keeping his ear close to the ground and endeavor to profit thereby. The theory period relative to the president-elect is nearing an end. Soon he will be seen where he will be obliged to show the practical side of his make-up.

The democrats now have a majority of two in the next United States senate, with Illinois still to be heard from. With control of both branches of congress and the white house, there is nothing to stop the democrats from putting into effect any policy they may favor.

St. Paul Dispatch: The heavily republican legislature of Oregon has elected Harry Lane, a democrat, to the United States senate. Lane won out in the vote by the people, and the legislature confirmed the vote. This comes pretty near being an election by the popular vote. When the people order the legislators must obey.

The estimate loss from the damage done the California orange and lemon crops by the frost is estimated at \$34,000,000. And of this loss, we are told from California that \$19,169,380 will be sustained by the growers; \$4,792,000 by the shippers; and \$9785,000 by the railroads. If these figures are true, they show that the shippers and railroads get almost as much out of the California fruit crop as the growers do.

The state will offer several million feet of matured timber for sale on its reserves in the Black Hills on the 18th of this month and from the numerous inquiries coming to the state land department it appears that there will be several bidders for the timber on this tract, which will be sold under regulations in regard to cutting only such trees as are marked for that purpose, and the proper care of brush and cuttings to protect the standing timber from damages by forest fires.

By a unanimous vote the legislature of West Virginia has ratified the income tax amendment to the constitution of the United States. When one more state ratifies the amendment, it becomes a part of the constitution, and this is expected to be accomplished within the next month. Thus when the new administration takes hold, the foundation will be promptly forthcoming.

ECLIPSES IN 1913

The 1913 almanac contains the important information that there will be five eclipses during the year. The sun will be darkened three times and moon twice. The first of these phenomena will occur on March 22, at which time there will be a total eclipse of the moon, visible all over North America. On April 5 there will be partial eclipse of the sun, which will be visible only in the northwestern part of North America. On August 31 there will be a partial eclipse of the sun, visible only in Greenland and eastern Canada. On Sept. 15 there will be a total eclipse of the moon, visible all over North America except in the northwestern portion. There will be a partial eclipse of the sun on September 30, but it will not be visible in any part of North America.

DEMOCRACY IN BLOOM

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 8.—Judge Edward F. Dunne, of Chicago, was at noon today inaugurated as governor of Illinois, succeeding Governor Chas. Deneen, and for the first time in twenty years the democracy came into power in Illinois.

INSINCERITY.

Denver Republican: It having been definitely settled that anybody who wants to can send a baby by parcel post, it now develops that nobody wants to. In which respect it reminds us very much of others of these later day demands being made upon the government. There are a great many things in this world which we think we want until we get them.

VETERANS TO CELEBRATE

Gettysburg veterans planning to attend the fiftieth anniversary celebration of that big battle to be held on the old battle ground at Gettysburg, Pa., July 1 to 5, will have the opportunity of attending either the G. A. R. national convention or the national convention of confederate veterans. This news was received in a letter from N. H. Kingman of Selby, state chairman of the Gettysburg commission for this state, who is at present spending the winter in Florida, but took occasion to attend the general meeting of the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg commission held a short time ago in the east.

Gov. Marshall, not being so very rich, plans to live at a hotel during his term of service as vice president. Rich vice presidents have contributed liberally to campaign expenses and the social life of official Washington. The pay of the vice president, \$12,000 a year, is barely sufficient to enable him to live at a Washington hotel.

THE SIX-YEAR TERM PROPOSAL

Louisville Courier-Journal: It is unfortunate that the question of a constitutional amendment limiting the presidency to one term should be affected by the ambitions of Theodore Roosevelt. Considered solely on its merits, there is no doubt that a proposition for a single six-year term would be successful; but with the bull moosers refusing to consider it except in its relation to the desires of their leader we shall probably have to await a more propitious season for the effectuation of this much needed reform.

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD

The annual state encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Woman's Relief Corps will be held in Aberdeen June 3, 4 and 5. The official announcement of this was received Tuesday from Phil Lawrence, chairman of the council of administration, Mrs. S. Nevada Hereford, department president of the W. R. C.

CONSERVATION

From the tone of the utterances of the President-elect, the new administration will be very strong for conservation. This principle is one which the American people have adopted, and it is not any too soon. As to details there will be differences for some time to come, but on the broad proposition that it is wise—more, necessary—to make proper use of those resources which peculiarly belong to the whole people, there will hardly be any dissent.

Those who are fortunate enough to be able to visit the San Diego Exposition in 1915 will get an idea of what conservation means as special attention will be paid there to that subject.

THE CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Huron Huronite: The state conservation congress held at Pierre is mentioned as having been an unusually harmonious and successful conference of earnest men. The resolutions finally adopted covered a comprehensive scope and aim directly at achievements in the interest of South Dakota at large and of all its citizens.

They urge the legislature to appropriate liberally to the scientific education of farm workers and spend less money on the little standing army of the state.

The call for centralized rural schools, devoted sufficiently to agricultural education, and the early consolidation of the state educational institutions.

They ask that counties be authorized to expend money for the promotion of agricultural and domestic science.

Conservation of such resources as soil coal, mineral, timber land, water power and artesian supply was urged in the resolutions and good highways received the attention their importance demands.

The congress advised the employment of convicts on the roads of the state, though not under the contract system.

The organization of farmers along cooperative lines for social, religious, educational and financial improvement was made a special subject of endorsement.

The congress proceeded wisely and well and set the pace for a development of resources of high value to the state.

PROGRESSIVES TO ADVISE

Governor Wilson's address to the New Jersey electors was brief but it was to the point. He said that only Progressives would be summoned by him as advisers because they only were in harmony with the cause to which he is committed. The president-elect is entirely right—he could not consistently say anything else. He has a right to assume that the reactionaries are honest and that an honest reactionary would conscientiously advise against progressive measures. Why should he ask advice which he must necessarily reject? Reactionary democrats who supported the ticket are eligible to other important positions but they are not available as advisors.

THE MAN OF THE FUTURE

Chicago Evening Post: A French savant peers far ahead to see the man of the future. He will have, says the scientist, a larger head, a less powerful jaw and fewer teeth. Prevalence of food that is easily masticated is to lead to the change in the chewing machinery. Two or three ribs are to disappear; stature, arms and legs are to be shorter. The little toe will become obsolete, a start in its elimination being noticeable even now.

By that time, according to other prophets, the appendix will have nearly passed through atrophy. There are only a few of us who can employ the muscles of the ear now.

The large head will hold a larger if not more active brain. With the shorter arm, the hand, next to the eye the most highly sensitized agent of the brain, will become larger, and the fingers will be of still greater use in development.

All this predicted on the evolution of man as he is, there being no likelihood of a natural upheaval to change habits, surroundings or food supplies.

TRAVELING EXPENSES

There has been considerable complaint in regard to the travel claim of some of the state officers in their wanderings over the country, especially in this complaint aimed at the accounts of Gov. Vessey for the past two years, and those of State Engineer Lea, which are alleged to have been excessive. Several members have been investigating along these lines, and Senator Howe attempts to cure the situation by a bill which goes to the opposite extreme. He seeks to prevent any state officers from drawing travel pay anywhere outside the state, save the attorney general in cases which call him outside the state to appear in courts. This is elimination with a vengeance, as it would prohibit state officers from attending national meetings of like officers from all the states of the union, or force them to pay their own travel expenses if they did go, and would prohibit the state land commissioner from going to Washington to look into matters of interest to the state lands, which in many cases need looking after personally to get shopped up for the best interests of the state.

O, THAT ANGRY MAN

Huron Huronite: Senator Crawford becomes delirious as he surveys the field of endeavor at Pierre, as it looks to him, while the contest was on over a choice for United States senator.

The situation of then has not appeared as lurid to others as it does to the senator and considerable wonderment will be experienced over the play of emotion that exhibits itself through his contributions to the public press.

Referring to the republicans who did not vote for Mr. Sterling, Mr. Crawford depicts their characters in burning language, saying:

"Along with the mephitic odors and putrid smells, these men have left behind them a record of betrayal and treachery so black and damnable that it will remain to curse them as long as they live." Attributing their alienation from the Sterling cause to the malign influence of certain persons and corporations, Mr. Crawford further declares:

"No matter what false pretenses are made, we may be assured Gamble, Richards, Egan, McLeod and Burke, with the Milwaukee and Northwestern, the Homestake Mining company and the saloons will play a side game with Ed. Johnson and the democratic organization to defeat the progressive republicans."

No one can tell exactly what illusions are behind the analysis made by Mr. Crawford, but he certainly takes a startling view of a condition of affairs that is very easily explained, and has been explained many times.

The republican opposition to the election of Mr. Sterling was based entirely on the reasonable belief that he had abandoned the republican party after it had abandoned the republican party after it had nominated him for the senatorship.

If loyalty to old party associations and achievements causes men to emit "mephitic odors and putrid smells," those who betrayed that party in its own council and appropriated its livery may be justly classified with the night wanderer that is shunned by the human and the animal kingdom alike.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

It is not within the power of the present session of the legislature to call a constitutional convention. Under the state constitution all it can do is to put the matter to a vote of the people at the next election, and if the people feel that the need for a convention is great enough to justify its cost, they can so declare by electing members of the legislature pledged to it.

If the convention were called, it would consist of as many delegates as there are members of the lower house. This number is now 103. The delegates would be chosen in the same way, and they are paid the same—\$5 a day. No limit of time is put on the convention's deliberations, and it might remain in session for several months. The cost should not be as great as that of a legislative session but it would no doubt prove to be nearly so. The per diem of the members is only one item of the cost and that would exceed \$500 a day.

The reason given for the demand is that our constitution, though one of the new ones, is already out of date. Every election however offers a chance to amend it by popular vote. These chances are open every two years, and before a constitutional convention is held, the promoters will have to tell the people wherein the present document is defective and why the present methods of amendment fail.

The grain crop of the world for the year 1912 was over 4,000,000,000 bushels greater than any previous year, so considering the vast amount of wheat already placed upon the market, the present price is very good.

LARGE ATTENDANCE OUT

The first state meeting of the South Dakota Peace society was held here Sunday and addresses were made to the large audience in attendance at the meeting. President J. W. Farley in the principal address discussed the tremendous expense and waste of war, and praised the proposed peace treaty advocated by President Taft. He gave as the reason of the defeat of his international peace program that this country has been retiring the great minds from the senate and filling their places with small men who rattle about in the peace fling by such men in the past as Webster, Clay, Hoar, Voorhees, Kittredge and many others. A number of other speakers took part in the program.