

REPUBLICAN NEWS ITEM.

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REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.
Judge of the Superior Court
W. D. PORTER, of Allegheny.
Electors at Large,
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B. F. JONES, Pittsburg.

REPUBLICAN COUNTY TICKET.
County Treasurer, W. A. GUMBLE.
Member of Assembly, L. B. ZANER.
County Commissioners,
F. W. PEALE and W. H. ROGERS.

Speaking of the importance of agriculture, the national master said that the whole total volume of the crops may be slightly less than the crops of 1906, but their cash farm value will be greater. The farm products in their original form or in the form of cattle, sheep, hogs and horses have overflowed the great granaries, clogged transportation facilities and brought gold from foreign countries. These facts warrant the statement that agriculture is not only the great industry of the country, but the most important in the nation's industrial prosperity. Agriculture prospers not because other industries prosper, but other industries prosper because agriculture prospers. The promotion of agriculture embodies the highest type of statesmanship. It is eminently proper to inquire the effect of all proposed public policies upon agriculture when under consideration in any legislative body.

On the subject of grange mutual life insurance the worthy master had this to say: "There has been a demand for several years for some form of fraternal life insurance within the organization to cover the national field as local companies cover certain states. Sound, reliable, full legal reserve life insurance furnished by a society and controlled by its own members, operated on the fraternal system, with the officers directly responsible to the members, is the foundation to build upon. What is wanted is the best at the cheapest price—not cheap life insurance, but good life insurance cheap."

Concerning the publication of the national grange paper the speaker remarked that the executive committee had made arrangements for the publication of a weekly journal upon terms acceptable to the masters of the state granges. He emphasized the fact that its publication will not come in competition with agricultural papers. Its editorial policy will be dictated solely by a desire to promote the organization. It is to be the official organ of the grange.

Of the denatured alcohol law, which took effect Jan. 1, 1907, the national master said that the comparatively small consumption of denatured alcohol during the past six months had been chiefly due to the fact that our manufacturers were not ready to furnish the alcohol using apparatus, such as stoves, lamps, etc. None being on sale in this country, there was no demand for the alcohol. The question of utilizing alcohol as a fuel for motor vehicles, boats and farm engines is engaging the attention of manufacturers, and it is believed that this alcohol will be made available for use as a motor fuel in the near future.

On federal aid for the improvement of public highways the speaker said that the grange had inaugurated a campaign of education having for its object the enactment of legislation by congress providing for a federal appropriation of \$50,000,000, to be divided into five annual appropriations of \$10,000,000 each, to be expended for the improvement of public highways. The legislative committee has given close attention to this work and believes that the time has arrived when the movement should be prosecuted vigorously with the view of securing legislation at the present session of congress.

On trusts and the tariff it was remarked that the present tariff rates on articles produced by trusts are much higher than is necessary to cover the difference in labor cost as between home and foreign manufacturers and that material reductions could be made on the duty of such articles and amply provide for liberal wages compared with the wages abroad. If these criticisms are well founded there would seem to be good reasons for legislation that will correct the evident defects on the present tariff schedules without injuriously affecting our agricultural or manufacturing industries. These facts can best be secured through a non-partisan tariff commission whose duty it shall be to examine carefully into all phases of the subject. This commission should include representatives of the agricultural, labor, manufacturing, transportation and commercial interests.

On the parcels post question the national master remarked that the postal reform had received a new impetus within the past few months, owing to the fact that it had a powerful advocate in the new postmaster general, Mr. Meyer, who had intimated what to all intents and purposes is the grange plan and who is using his influence to arouse public interest in its support. He advised an active campaign in congress on this subject.

The address also favored postal savings banks, currency reform and pure food legislation.

Pennsylvania granges went to the national grange in special cars, starting from Harrisburg. They spent a night in New York on the way.

THE TOSS OF A COIN.

Mathematics of the Turning of Heads or Tails.

CHANCE AND THEORY CLASH.

If Heads Turn Ten Times in Sequence, Theory Says the Odds Are Against Another Head. Yet Chance Says the Odds on the Next Toss Are Even.

A famous mathematician, Professor Karl Pearson, once spent the greater part of his vacation deliberately tossing a shilling and making careful notes of how it fell. He spun the shilling 25,000 times, and a pupil of his, working separately, spun a penny 8,200 times and also tested the drawing of 9,000 tickets from a bag.

It may seem strange that a learned professor should put himself to such an amount of trouble to demonstrate what every schoolboy who had ever tossed a coin already knew. Yet, as a matter of fact, few really do grasp the laws which govern such an apparently straightforward matter as the tossing of a coin. In the words of the arithmetician, the theory of "runs"—that is, heads turning up repeatedly or tails turning up repeatedly—is precisely as follows:

The chance of a head is one-half; of two heads following, is one-half multiplied by one-half—that is, one-quarter; of three heads in succession, one-half multiplied by one-half multiplied by one-half—that is, one-eighth. Now, what do you suppose is the chance of a run of eleven heads? It is safe to say that not many persons, however accustomed to tossing coins, have reasoned this out. The fact is that one "run" of eleven heads is on the average only to be expected in 2,048 sets of coin tossing.

Although the man in the street may not have reckoned this, he is always quite positive that if, say, a coin has fallen ten times head upward he is safe to start backing tails. He puts his money on tails turning up because, he says, it stands to sense that the run of heads can't continue. But does it? At the eleventh toss the head of the coin is just as big as it ever was. What mysterious influence can a past event, the tossing of ten heads, have on a future one which has no link with them—namely, the tossing of the coin the eleventh time? Surely each toss is an event by itself, as Sir Hiram Maxim said of a game at roulette at Monte Carlo:

"It is a pure, unadulterated question of chance, and it is not influenced in the least by anything which has ever taken place before or that ever will take place in the future."

A nasty piece of plain speaking this for the cranks who had published schemes for "breaking the bank" and whose plans depended entirely on the theory that if one game ended in a win for "red" the chances against it ending "red" a second time were less, a third time less still, and so on.

This of course would be a sound enough argument provided that you regard some dozens of games of roulette or tosses of a coin all as one continuous event. It is quite safe, for instance, to offer beforehand big odds against a coin turning up heads ten times running. But in practice the public house loafer does not do this. What he does is to bet on each separate toss by itself, thus defeating his own aim. The odds against a coin turning up heads eleven times are as has been shown, something like 2,000 to 1. But suppose you only start betting at the tenth toss. What are the odds against the eleventh toss again being a head?

The odds, so far from being 2,000 to 1, are actually 1 to 1! To use an Irishism, the odds are even—that is to say, if you split up the eleven tosses into eleven separate events to be bet on separately your bets should be "even money" all the time, however often heads turn up running. But if you view the eleven tosses as one combined event and you offer a preliminary bet against the whole eleven results being heads you will have to give gigantic odds.

All this goes to prove the absolute uncertainty of gambling. The greatest mathematicians of the day cannot be certain how a coin will fall, so that the man of merely average abilities who stakes anything important on the toss of a coin is allowing that part of his fortune to pass entirely outside his control.—Pearson's Weekly.

South Africa's Locusts.
Millions and millions of locusts settle, and millions and millions continue flying to settle farther on. They have been setting in myriads for a hundred miles and more, and yet enough are left flying to hide the sun. On the ground nothing can be seen but locusts. So thickly do they pack that not a square inch of earth or grass is visible. As you walk through them a narrow wake is left for a few seconds in your track where they have flown out of your way, and as they rise in thousands before your feet the noise of their wings is like an electric power station.—Grand Magazine.

Putting it Mildly.
The flooding of a Yorkshire mine had a tragic result, and a miner was deputed to break the news to a poor woman whose husband had been drowned.

"Does Widow Jones live here?"
"No," was the indignant lady's reply.
"You're a liar!" he said.—London Tatler.

Never tell your resolution beforehand.—Selden.

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