

# Dwight Star and Herald

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It's all over now. The next holiday is Feb. 12—Lincoln's birthday.

New Year's day was a beautiful day. We hope and trust it was a good omen.

The primary law seems to be getting holes kicked in it. If it was kicked all to smithereens, whatever that is, it wouldn't hurt.

There are several candidates for governor in both parties in Illinois whose campaigns will soon resemble Gen. Reyes' revolution in Mexico.

The republicans of Chicago seem to have gone back to old-time methods, and the Busse-Deneen-Campbell-Peace people will hold a convention Feb. 3 in Chicago, and the Lorimer people Feb. 12 in Springfield.

The Aurora Daily News has been purchased by the Aurora Beacon. The latter is the property of Congressman Ira Copley, and the purchase removes all newspaper opposition to the Congressman in his home city.

The "convention system" being adopted by the Deneen-Busse and the Lorimer people is a good thing in one way—it will probably postpone the agony for a month or more. But when it does commence it will sizzle.

Gov. Osborne tried to reorganize the alleged progressive party the other day in a speech at Lansing. He ordered La Follette out of that bunch and advised Taft to abdicate and all be for Roosevelt and if the latter wouldn't stand that they should all be for Beveridge of Indiana. If the Governor of Michigan carries out his plans he will not have much time to govern.

La Follette is being asked why it

was he took up with Senator Stevenson, of Wisconsin, and lauded him as a good man, and then when Stevenson wouldn't stand for La Follette's appointments and socialistic ideas, he went back on Stevenson and all of a sudden found him bad. La Follette is being shown up as simply a politician and if he can't have his own way he bolts. Just like the Chicago Tribune.

The Macomb Journal tells of the good road dragging work that is done by two farmers who have to haul their husked corn nearly or quite a mile along the highway from their field to their crib. When they start for a load they hook the road drag behind the wagon and when they return do a similar trick behind the loaded vehicle, and so every time they pass over they drag the road. The result is that the stretch of road is as good as a turnpike.

Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, has started his boom for President this time with a flourish of trumpets. He started one four years ago but it died in Chicago without a struggle, and probably the death of this one will be at the same place. There is not an important, practical reform the Senator advocates but which is being performed by the republican party as fast as possible without causing business depression and panics. There are ways of bringing about reforms by firmness which do not disturb business in general and by due process of law, and also by force and threats. President Taft represents the former and Senator La Follette the latter. The former represents conservative republican principles and the latter is inclined toward socialism. It is safe to say that the honest people of both parties believe in the former way of doing business.

When a voter goes to the polls at the primary election in Illinois, April 9, he will be confronted by a ballot of somewhat terrifying magnitude. There will be from twenty to twenty-five nominations to be made and for some of the offices there will be eight or ten candidates. Two congressmen at large are to be nominated and elected in Illinois next year besides the regular congressman from each district. Then there is a member of the state board of equalization, a member of the state central committee, the legislative representatives, member of the senatorial committee and all state officers including governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer and auditor. An advisory vote on United States senator is also to be taken. Then in addition come all the candidates for the county of-

ties. Altogether, the primary ballot will take on the appearance of a city directory.

Some of the Chicago papers came out this week and announced that Col. Frank L. Smith had withdrawn from the race for the republican nomination for Governor. Col. Smith had never said that he was a candidate and has taken a high and dignified position in regard to the same. He has said without reserve that if he could in any manner simplify and benefit the republican situation in Illinois by being or not being a candidate he would do so. It was thought for some time that Senator Cullom would not be a candidate and that he might decide not to be if he could simplify matters, and he may not be yet, and if he was not Col. Smith might still decide to enter the race. The Colonels' many friends all over the state realize his business ability and know that the application of such to the state of Illinois would result in untold benefit to the people and the party. Any report that he is tied up to any faction in the party is not true. He is just simply and unequivocally a big, broad republican.

### PLENTY—BUT NOT HIS KIND.

Senator La Follette will find plenty of progressive republicans in Illinois, says the Canton paper. The woods are full of them. The prairies swarm with them.

There are more than half a million of republicans in Illinois, and they are all progressive. All republicans are progressive—and none more so than the Illinois republicans.

But Senator La Follette will find few of his kind of "Progressives" here. Illinois republicans believe in progress straight ahead—and not at socialistic angles.

They are Lincoln, McKinley and Taft progressives—not progressives of the Pinchott and La Follette type.

### DECLINE OF THE MUCKRAKER.

"With one magazine sold under the hammer for \$10,000, which is understood to have received \$1,000,000 from sale of stock to its readers; and three officials of another publication out on bail after indictment charging them with fraudulent sale of stock; and yet another magazine withholding the payment of a dividend which had been declared, but which apparently had not been earned—the honest magazine publisher is forced to blush for the doings of some of his fellows. Stock in several magazines has been unloaded on the public under conditions compared to which salting a mine would seem an act of righteousness. "Perhaps there is something con-

tagious in muckraking which dulls the moral perception. Muckraking articles, possibly sincere at the start, long since degenerated into mere sensationalism to sell copies and instead of being the great reformers they so loudly boast, many publishers are merely mercenary. Any man or act, however good, can be presented under conditions fit only to condemn. A scratch on a silver spoon does not make the spoon pewter; even a man with only one eye is not blind. It is a low standard of publishing that caters to a depraved public taste which prefers the slime which drips from even the purest ice. Editing is understood to be the art of sensing what the people want—and giving it to them; but this does not excuse a pandering to an unwholesome mental appetite any more than it defends a doctor who would run an opium den. "Dishonest methods may prosper for a time, but sooner or later there comes the inevitable day of reckoning."—H. H. Windsor in the January Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Not satisfied with modest retirement, Lincoln Steffens, one of the prominent muckraker writers, sought and gained more notoriety at Los Angeles, the other day, in connection with the McNamara brothers' confession. The title of "healthy boys" which he gave to the murderers, will cling to him for many years. The people have come to their senses, and no longer tolerate the class of defamers who were once so popular as writers.

### THE GOVERNORSHIP.

It seems that the withdrawal of Col. Frank L. Smith from the governorship race, as reported a day or so ago, was arranged in Chicago without the knowledge and consent of the Colonel himself. He now emphatically declares that he is as much a candidate as ever, though he has made no formal announcement, and has entered into no political deals.

The denial of Col. Smith is really no surprise. It is an old trick of politics, and about as contemptible as it is old, to start a report that some candidate has withdrawn from the race. Other prominent men beside Col. Smith who have been suggested for the office, have had to confront such rumors.

When a man has been mentioned quite generally for the nomination, he should be accorded the privilege of withdrawing on his own account, if he wants to, and of stating his own reasons therefor, and that task should not be usurped by his enemies. Those industrious leaders with headquarters apparently in Chicago—who are planning withdrawals in favor of any

particular candidate are engaged in a gratuitous task.

At this stage of the game a number of gentlemen have been mentioned who have yet to put themselves unequivocally in the field. But they should be accorded the courtesy of settling the question for themselves rather than have it turned over to a committee of bosses who have an interest in arranging such withdrawals. Illinois politics are in what might be called a state of suspense. The chances of no one man above others are apparent as the situation presents itself. This applies to the Republicans and to nearly the same extent to the Democrats. It has naturally resulted in the canvassing of the claims of a number of prominent men. It has been felt, that were the matter to be settled by a popular primary right now, the outcome would be exceedingly problematical and this has tended in itself to keep back a formal statement by candidates.

The situation may clear up soon among the Republican candidates and we may have the outlook more clearly defined. But the candidates and their following must be accorded the privilege of doing it and not interested individuals who are especially concerned to have one withdraw that another may profit by it.—Pantagraph.

### STATES A FAIR ISSUE.

Since the recent meeting of the Illinois Republican Press Association and the position it took in relation to the "trust press" of Chicago much editorial comment has followed and the line is more clearly drawn between what is known as the country press against the Chicago "trust" combination.

One matter was brought out clearly in the recent state meeting of editors and that was the great influence and power of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat as a Republican party paper, which circulates so extensively in central and southern Illinois, where Republican majorities have been increasing and insurgency is unknown, while in northern Illinois, where big Republican majorities have been the rule, the slump in party majorities has been notable and insurgency is generally recognized to exist. Speaking on this subject the DeKalb Review has the following to say:

"One would naturally expect good sound progressive Republicanism to come from the northern part of the state. One would look for the unhyphenated Republicanism of Lincoln, Grant, Logan, Oglesby, Lovejoy to come from that territory north of the Egyptian border. For fifty years the greatest Republican majorities

have been in the counties of the north half of the state. One of the observations of the state editors' meeting at Springfield was that the southern part of the state does not seem to be inoculated with anarchistic, socialistic or isms of any kind, while all the anti old time Republican progression seems to be in the north end of the state.

"One student of state matters thinks he has solved the problem because in the south end of the state the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a consistent and conservative Republican newspaper and not an organ of any faction of the Republican party has a wide circulation. In the north half of the state the Chicago papers are credited with being so biased that one would certainly be led astray politically if he read only one paper.

"It is charged that for two generations one of the Chicago newspapers has been for free trade three years out of the four but has on the fourth year usually stood by the protection candidate for president. If the Chicago press is responsible for the anti-Republican wave, it is time that the progressive Republicans of the old school awaken to the fact. In these days when the press of the state has increased responsibility on account of the present primary law it behooves the country press to get together and head off this newspaper conspiracy of the city by the lake.

"There is no more danger of carrying Illinois into the Democratic camp next year than there was in 1864, if the people follow the country press instead of the large dailies. About all the isms of the state are in the Chicago newspaper offices."

### Watch Night Service.

For the first time in a number of years Watch Night service was held at the Congregational church last Sunday evening, and a large number of people watched the Old Year out and the New In. Rev. Farrington gave a splendid address on "It is the Last Time." It was hoped that Rev. Ebert could be present to assist in the services, but illness prevented. A social hour, during which time refreshments were served, was enjoyed from 11 to 11:30 o'clock, after which devotional was held until the dawning of the New Year.

Send this paper for a year to some friend away for a holiday gift. It will be appreciated.

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