

THE POLK COUNTY NEWS.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1904.

The Moral Issue.

Mr. Bryan's speech in New York recently on the Moral Issue has met with universal approval wherever there is a desire for a clean government, and by all those who are patriots for the benefit of the Republic and not merely for personal and financial gain. Recent investigations have proved the sanity of Mr. Bryan's utterance. He said in part:

"Who are the heroes that are held up for the admiration of the rising generation? They are the gambling stock brokers, who, with their stock watering processes, their corners, and their devious deals, are worse than the old feudal robbers. The clearest evidence that the American people are money-mad is that they will tolerate the robber kings of gambling finance. These conscienceless rogues fling the whole code of honesty to the winds, defy the laws, rob men of their hard earnings, and then try to throw a sop of their ill-gotten gains to the church as 'hush money.'

"This is harsh language. So harsh that I would hesitate to employ it. And, yet, is it not deserved? 'Occasionally a voice is raised against some particular manifestation of commercialism, some new evidence of the degradation that it has wrought; but why are your leaders in religion, in business and in politics not grappling with the vicious principle that is responsible for the present demoralization of political life—namely, the theory that government can properly be used as the means of bringing pecuniary advantage to those who control it? 'Will it pay?' has been substituted for 'Is it right?' and as a consequence our legislative assemblies, city, state and national, are becoming auction rooms, in which governmental privileges are knocked down to the highest bidder.

"Is it strange that two Senators have been indicted for selling their political influence? Is it strange that government officials and members of Congress have been interesting themselves in government contracts? Is it strange that boodle investigations are bringing to light wholesale corruption in municipal government?"

One of the Senators Mr. Bryan here alludes to is Senator Dietrich from his own state. The other one is ex-Congressman Griggs, a Democrat. The Charleston News and Courier commenting on Mr. Bryan's speech, said:

"The evils against which he here declaims are actual evils that every one recognizes, and which everyone cannot employ his eloquence to better purpose just now than in holding them up to the reprobation of the people of the country. It was proper, too, that he should have invited the preachers to hear his political sermon. No one desires that the Church should attempt to meddle with the State, but it might not be amiss if the pulpit would occasionally employ a bit more fearlessness than it does in condemning iniquity in high public places. Mr. Bryan is eminently sane when he declares that some of the ideals we are holding up for the guidance of the youth of the nation are false ideals. The country seems to be possessed with a veritable devil of dollar-getting, and at the rate we are going it is only a question of time before it will have us running down into a sea of trouble to be choked."

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| GROSS ASSETS, | \$648,127 |
| INDIVIDUAL DEPOSITS, | \$336,198 |
| BANK DEPOSITS, | 33,542 |
| TOTAL DEPOSITS, | 369,740 |
| CASH ON HAND AND RESERVE AGENTS, | 118,706 |
| Total Assets amounting to | \$894,300.00 |

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POLK COUNTY NEWS

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