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The Consolidated Stationery Co., Limited

41 PRINCESS STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN.

"Hayseed" Legislation Did It.

A good deal has been heard of late about the depression in the old time boom state of Kansas. Many Canadians will readily remember the time, not so many years ago, but before the opening of our own West, when Kansas was the great drawing card. Thousands of Canadians were drawn thither by the glowing descriptions given of the wonderful productiveness of that region. No part of this continent was ever quite so enthusiastically written up as Kansas was at that time. Of late years a change has come over the scene. Kansas has been on the down grade and a great many disparaging things have been said and written about that state. Now we have a Kansas paper, the Emporia Gazette, which tells us that Kansas owes all her troubles to the rule of political cranks and fanatics. The paper referred to tells of how Kansas has been losing population, how its cities have dwindled away, how capitalists have been driven out of the state, etc., and then it plunges into the cause of this trouble, in the following sarcastic way:

"What's the matter with Kansas? We all know; yet here we are at it again. We have an old moss-back Jacksonian, who snorts and howls because there is a bath-tub in the state-house; we are running that old jay for governor. We have another shabby wild-eyed, rattle brained fanatic who has said orally in a dozen speeches that 'the rights of the user are paramount to the rights of the owner'; we are running him for chief justice, so that capital will come tumbling over itself to get into the state. We have raked the ash heap of human failure in the state and have found an old hoop-skirt of a man, who has failed as a business man, who has failed as an editor, who has failed as a preacher, and we are going to run him for congressman-at-large. He will help the looks of the Kansas delegation in Washington. Then we have discovered a kid without a law practise, and have decided to vote for him as attorney-general. Then, for fear that some hint that the state had become respectable might percolate through the civilized portions of the nation, we have decided to send three or four harpies out lecturing, telling the people that Kansas is raising hell and letting corn go to weeds.

"Oh, this is a state to be proud of! We are the people who can hold up our heads! What we need here is less money, less capital, fewer white shirts and brains, fewer men with business judgment, and more of these fellows who boast that they are just ordinary old clodhoppers, but that they know more in a minute about finance than John Sherman."

We need more men who are 'posted'; who can bellow about the crime of '73; who hate posterity, and who think, because a man believes in national honor, that he is a tool of Wall street. We have had a few of them, some 150,000, but we want more. We need several thousand gibbering idiots to scream about the 'Great Red Dragon' of Lombard street. 'We don't need population, we don't need wealth, we don't need well dressed men on the streets, we don't need cities on these fertile prairies; you bet we don't! What we are after is the money power. Because we have become poorer and ornerier and meaner than a spavined, distempered mule, we, the people of Kansas, propose to kick. We don't care to build up; we wish to tear down.

"There are two ideas of government," said our noble Bryan at Chicago. "There are those who believe that if you just legislate to make the well to do prosperous their prosperity will leak through on those below. The Democratic idea is that if you legislate to make the masses prosperous their prosperity will find its way up and through every class, and rest upon us." That's the stuff. Give the prosperous man the dickens. Legislate the thriftless into ease; whack the stuffing out of the creditors, and tell the debtor who borrowed money five years ago, when the money in circulation was more general than it is now, that the contraction of the currency gives him a right to repudiate. Whoop it up for the ragged trousers; put the lazy, greasy fizzle who cannot pay his debts on an altar and worship him. Let the state ideal be high. What we need is not the respect of our fellow men, but a chance to get something for nothing.

"Oh, yes, Kansas is a great state. Here are people fleeing from it by the score every day, capital going out of the state by the hundreds of dollars, and every industry except farming paralyzed, and that crippled because its products have to go across the ocean before they can find a laboring man at work who can afford to buy them. Let's don't stop this year. Let's drive all the decent, self-respecting men out of the state. Let's keep the old clodhoppers who know it all! Let's encourage the man who is 'posted.' He can talk, and what we need is not mill hands to eat our meat, nor factory hands to eat our wheat, nor cities to oppress the farmer by consuming his butter and eggs and chickens and produce; what Kansas needs is men who can talk, who have large leisure to argue the currency question, while their wives wait at home for that nickel's worth of bluing."

Fur Trade News.

Mink is regarded as a desirable article for the coming season, and is being made up in many attractive articles by all manufacturers of fashionable goods. It is a superior fur, as

regards appearance and actual value to the consumer.—Fur Trade Review.

The New York Fur Trade Review publishes the following from its London correspondent: "London furriers have introduced an electric seal cape about twenty inches in depth with considerably more than a circle in sweep; thus far I have failed to notice quite as good workmanship on this class of goods as I find among the best trade in New York, but this result is probably due to a lack of proper competition. Tibets have sold very well both here and on the continent, and stocks, particularly fine goods, are small, but early and large shipments are expected from China at lower prices than those now prevailing; kulin-ky dyed mink color, martin, sable, and kindred furs have sold very well; muskrats, of which a great deal was expected for plucking and dyeing this season, have rather been supplanted by the French electric sheared rabbits. The present quiet spell is no doubt largely due to the lack of business in the fur trade on your side of the Atlantic; this is specially true of seals, of which very few skins have changed hands of late. Moufflons have sold to a considerable extent in fancy colors, notably blue ground and black top. Dyed white texas in black and smoked colors have been sold at a loss, in most instances about one-half the original cost. Lynx has again proved a failure for this year, notwithstanding the low price. A demand, however, exists for seal, seal imitations, dyed marmots, Japanese foxes, dyed hares, natural raccoon and Thibet goods, the latter also being in steady demand for Germany and London dyers being quite busy with orders for this article. Australian opossum continues in a strong request for the continent. On the 22d of July Messrs. Culverwell, Brooks & Co., offered at auction 16,531 bastard chinchillas. The chinchillas, which were not all fresh goods, found buyers at good prices, but large, rough blue skins bringing 41 shillings 6 pence per dozen average. This article is expected to be again fashionable and good imitations are being shown in China lamb, moufflon and sheared hare. Various brokers will offer on the 28th inst. a total of 1,915 bales of Australian and New Zealand rabbit skins."

John McPherson & Co., shoe manufacturers, Hamilton, Ont., are in difficulties, the bank of Montreal having closed down on them. The bank is the principal creditor, but they claim to have a surplus of \$20,000.

The liabilities of John McPherson & Co., wholesale boot and shoe dealers, Hamilton, who recently suspended, are \$175,000. The bank of Montreal is the heaviest creditor, being for \$125,000, of which \$10,000 is secured. The trade liabilities are \$32,000.