

persons or four hundred and fifty-four persons to every one hundred miles of road. And all this property and all this patronage whet the populist appetite for power, place and plunder. For it they would quintuple the interest-bearing debt of the government.

THE BLACK LOCUST FOR NEBRASKA. In the Blue Ridge mountains, in Virginia, I have seen large groves of this American timber tree growing in a wild state. Being planted in many places for a shade or street tree, it is not looked upon as a forest growth. I made numerous inquiries throughout Nebraska and learn that it succeeds admirably, especially in the western portion.

The locust increases in value rapidly, coming into its prime in ten to fifteen years, after which it as rapidly deteriorates. Old trees in the Middle States have stood for thirty to forty years, but are of no greater value than when ten years old. Single trees, or lines for shade, branch low, and except for fence posts have no value. In groves, however, six to eight feet apart, it makes a tall single stem forty to fifty feet high, twelve to sixteen inches through. Such trees may be profitably grown and sawed into commercial lumber. Its growth is very rapid. For coppice—that is frequently thinning by cutting out a portion of the trees—there is nothing superior. Once planted it is always on hand, springing up rapidly from the stump into good timber.

Plants one year old are inexpensive, and may be obtained at any home nursery. Yet it may be grown from seed, although from consideration of time, it is preferable to buy plants.

I firmly believe that the locust will prove more satisfactory in the extreme western plain region than most other woods, and if it lives the first three months after planting there will be no question of its success thereafter.

The wood is very durable, its employment quite varied. Firewood, fence-post, wagon hubs, ships' tackle, paving blocks, poles and posts for many purposes, are among the principal uses. Telegraph poles of locust would far outlast the cedar now employed, while transportation a thousand miles would be saved. It would also be of value for railway ties if a supply could be obtained.

Seed should be secured now if required.

JOHN P. BROWN.

FORESTRY. The American Forestry Association will hold an important meeting in Omaha on Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10. This meeting is held in accordance with a vote of the association at its meeting held in Nashville a year ago and it was contemplated at that time that this meeting should be largely devoted to topics relating to the West; it has, also, been arranged that a number of Western men

of many years' experience in the West shall be placed upon the program so that the "Great Treeless District" may have a thorough representation.

Some of the topics that will be treated are as follows:

Where Does Our Timber Come From?
Wind Break—Its Value and Form.

Conifers on the Plain.

The Catalpa in Plantations.

The Extension of Native Forest Growth in the Plains.

How Does Forest Growth Affect Climate?

The Forest Botany of Nebraska, Economically Considered.

Arbor Day and its Economic Significance.

Some of the well-known persons who will take part in the meeting by presenting papers are: Dr. George L. Miller, Hon. R. W. Furnas, E. F. Stephens, C. A. Keffer, C. L. Watrous, F. S. Phoenix, Henry Michelsen, S. M. Emery, George Van Houten, C. S. Harrison, Prof. Charles E. Bessey, B. E. Fernow, Prof. Lawrence Bruner and George E. Kesser.

The exact topic assigned to each speaker will be announced a little later but, in the meantime, it may be understood that it is proposed to have a thoroughly profitable program, made up from topics which will have the most interest to those who are likely to be in attendance. The low rates on the railroads at this time will make it possible for many to attend this meeting who could, perhaps, not otherwise come. The exact place of meeting in Omaha will be announced in due season.

Persons interested, or desirous of any further information, are cordially invited to correspond with F. W. Taylor, Superintendent of Agriculture and Horticulture, Trans-Mississippi Exposition, Omaha.

The officers of the association are: Hon. Francis H. Appleton, president, Boston, and George P. Whittlesey, recording secretary and treasurer, Washington.

THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE. It is hard to think of any other thing that could have so seriously offended and so deeply touched the heart of the American people as the thought that the sick and wounded of our army in Cuba have been left without decent care. The simple pathos of the departure of that youthful host is still fresh upon us; many a man, though he had no friend nor brother among them, found unexpected tremors and twitchings at his throat as the boys went cheering away, and was perhaps puzzled to explain his emotion. Is it not the correct solution, that we felt that they were relying on us to take good care of them? War was not hell to those boys; war, their part of it, was fun, as it was to their forefathers whom Julius Cæsar met in the German forests two thousand years ago; but—"if

I'm hurt, you'll look out for me, won't you?" What response would the crowds that they left at our stations, under the gray April sky, have made to that request? And how have our servants in charge fulfilled our intention in this matter?

POPULISTIC DENUNCIATION. The conglomeration of place-hunters, assembled under the technical name of populists, in state convention, at Lincoln, on August 2, 1898, found relief and consolation in denouncing American institutions generally. But the most intense and exuberant happiness was developed in that convocation of critics when it in a very strident voice declared:

"We condemn the attempt of the present administration to retire the greenback currency and to issue gold interest-bearing bonds in place thereof, and we denounce such course as a change in the settled policy of the nation and a betrayal of the interest of the people."

When was the attempt made? What settled policy of the nation is referred to? What interests of what people are betrayed?

Again, with gleeful dogmatism, and a priggishness which no other political party can so becomingly wear this populist sanhedrim rises in its pooled egotism and oracularly yells to all the world:

"We denounce the usurpation of the federal courts in the issuance of writs of injunction by which the constitutional rights of freedom, of assemblage and speech is denied American citizens."

The freedom of assemblage and speech being denied, how did those populists manage to get together and listen to Senator Allen on the wicked intolerance which abridges speech in this country?

And how do the aforesaid patriots propose to punish "the usurpation of the federal courts in the issuance of writs of injunction"?

Will populist conventions tell the courts when the writ is and when it is not "a usurpation"?

The last numbers of Harper's Weekly and of The Literary Digest contain each a portrait of M. Cambon, the French ambassador, on whom has devolved the task of preserving Spain's honor. The absence of any resemblance, however remote, between the two pictures, suggests that this may be too big a job for one man.

At the time of the last international yacht races it occurred to some marine reporter to speak of the craft involved by their bare names as Defender and Valkyrie, without the convenient *the* which had been customary since Noah navigated the Ark; and the idea was quite widely taken up, though many opposed it. It is curious to note that not the most fantastic writer has thought this summer to call our battleships anything but the Oregon and the Texas.