EVIDENCES OF PROSPERITY

Reports of a Flattering Nature from Many Nebraska Towns.

STEADY AND SOLID PROGRESS MADE

Everywhere is Noted New Building Operations and the Establishment of New Industries—A Showing of Which Any State Might Feel Proud.

One of the surest indexes of the flourishing condition of Nebraska is the progress made by her cities and towns during recent years. Here is a record of a few of them:

Seward is Making Great Headway.

SEWARD, Neb., Dec. 30.—During the past summer and fall the B. & M. has expended over $100,000 in Seward for improvements. It has changed the lines of both the Nebraska railroads and Atchison & Nebraska, paying out about $30,000 for right-of-way. A fine new steel bridge has been put in across the Blue, west of town, for the Nebraska railway, and a new wooden bridge for the Atchison & Nebraska. A new depot, a large new freight house and a new water tank have been put in within two blocks of the public square, while the old depot was five blocks away. The change is a very important one as well as a great convenience to the city as well as the railroad company.

Benkelman's Big Building Boom.

BENKELMAN, Neb., Dec. 30.—This part of Dundy county was never in a more properous condition than the present. Farmers were fortunate in raising enormous crops and money is plenty; consequently business is good. Few towns in Nebraska afford a better market for grain, produce and stock combined than Benkelman. Wheat is worth from 42 cents to 50 cents, corn from 23 cents to 26 cents, oats 25 cents to 30 cents, hay $3.50 and $4, butter 20 cents, eggs 20 cents, chickens $2.25 to $2.75, hogs $5.25 to $5.40. Among the many late enterprises established in Benkelman during 1892 is a racket and notion store, clothing and boots and shoes, jewelry and musical instruments and sewing machines, harness shop, tailor shops, implement, iron and wood house, grocery store, elevator, hotel reopened, and a physician located in the town. The Commercial hotel recently changed hands and is now presided over in a highly satisfactory manner by Mr. Cooper, late of the Arlington at Holdrege. J. W. Smith of the firm of Smith & Smith, butchers, has sold out to his partner and will engage in the grocery business at once, his making the third exclusive grocery in Benkelman. The Benkelman cigar factory is an enterprise meeting with deserved success. Its retail department is one of the neatest arranged in the state.

The following improvements have been made in Benkelman during 1892: Elevator by Sewell, $800; repairs and addition on elevator by Mellbourne & McGinnis, $500; remodeling store room F. Scott, $200; remodeling store room J. S. West, $250; remodeling store room J. P. Israel, $200; remodeling store room Commercial hotel, $1,000; addition to dwelling J. R. King, $200; addition to dwelling G. L. King, $200; addition to dwelling S. D. Forsythe, $300; addition to barn J. R. King, $200; improvements Howard Lumber company, $300; dwelling, Mrs. Kettler, $850; dwelling, Parker Thompson, $1,000; store room and residence, J. H. Forman, $800; dwelling, W. R. Barger, $900; jewelry store, W. George Sheppard, $350; repairs to bank building, Bank of Benkelman, $200; repairs on Methodist Episcopal church, $200; repairs on Benkelman house, $200; implement house Brookes & Co., $250.

York is Putting Up Many Buildings.

YORK, Neb., Dec. 30.—There has been expended in this city since the 1st of last January about $30,000 in public improvements. A beautiful walk of Colorado red sandstone has been laid from the four entrances of the square to the court house and around the building, the cost being $1,400.

A city grade has been established and a good deal of money has been expended on the streets of the city.

The United Brethern college, which was completed and furnished this last summer at a cost of $26,000, is a beautiful two-story brick building situated in the eastern part of the city. Quite a large amount of money has been expended by private parties. Rev. R. N. McKaig erected on the southwest corner of the square a two-story brick block with three store rooms at a cost of $10,000.

John Ittner, at a cost of $4,000, placed new machinery in his water mill, by which he is now making flour by the "roller process."

The York foundry expended on a new warehouse $700.

C. J. Nobes added one more brick room on the south side of his opera block at a cost of $800.

Several new residences have been built, some of which are: Dr. Reynolds', costing $2,500; S. E. Mansfield's, costing $1,600; B. King's, costing $1,000, and A. M. Thomas', costing $1,000.

W. L. Morgan of this city has the contract for a new public building on the Orphans' home farm, just west of the city limits. This building will cost $25,000.

Hastings is Making Rapid Progress.

HASTINGS, Neb., Dec. 30.—The past eleven months in Hastings have been marked by a steady movement on the part of the municipal authorities looking toward the beautifying of the city, and toward making it more metropolitan in every respect. A year ago Thanksgiving day was laid the first paving brick of district No. 1. Now districts 1 and 2 are completed and the curbing and part of the brick work of 3 are finished, a total of nearly 7,000 feet. For the First district imported brick was used, but for the Second and Third, vitrified bricks of home manufacture were adopted. The sewerage system is now in thorough use, which is universal in the business portion of the city. A number of new districts have been created, and the mains generally extended during the year. In addition, much more work has been expended on the streets and sidewalks this year than has usually been done, with the gratifying result of much improving the appearance of the city.

The last legislature made a large appropriation for improvements to the asylum for the incurable insane, located here. Two new wings have been added, together with buildings used for bakery, laundry and kitchen purposes.

The P. A. Stewart paving brick yard has been much enlarged, the large orders received for this brick in Hastings and elsewhere warranting a large increase in the capacity of the yard. The Hastings soap factory has been purchased by Tacoma parties, who will enlarge it and increase its output. The C. Jacobson cold storage works have been established within the year, and already make large shipments. Another important event is now taking place in the extension of the street car line to the asylum, with a probability of a still further extention to Juniata. One of the prettiest buildings erected in the year is the Fourth ward school house.

A careful estimate of improvements in Hastings during the first eleven months of the year would show that there have been expenditures as follows:

Paving	$ 85,000
Improvements to the asylum	95,000
Street car line	8,000
School house, fourth ward	5,000
Sewerage	20,000
Plow works, Jacobson cold storage, brickyard, etc.	30,000
Miscellaneous buildings	15,000
Total	$258,000

There is now in process of construction a plow and carriage factory owned by James Rooney, which will supply a good part of the west with these articles. One of the most important acquisitions secured lately is the German Baptist college, which that denomination has decided to locate in Hastings, after a committee appointed for the purpose had visited a number of cities in the west. The association agrees to erect a $30,000 building as soon as possible in the spring, to be followed at once by dormitories, professors' houses and other college edifices. As the only other college under the control of this denomination is located in the state of New York, it will be seen that this institution will be of national importance. A number of families have already signified their intention of moving to Hastings to give their children better educational advantages. The Krug Brewing company has lately made Hastings a distributing point, and will erect suitable buildings at once. Negotiations are now pending for the location of a second carriage factory in this city, with every show of success.

Wayne Getting There in Great Shape.

The years of '90 and '91 were remarkable in the way of improvement in Wayne, but the year of 1892 far exceeds that of any previous year in the history of the city. The Nebraska Normal college and dormitory which were completed in June at a cost of nearly $25,000, is perhaps one of, if not the most important improvement in the city. The second term in the new building is now in progress, and over 150 students are enrolled, which is greatly due to the earnest work of President Pile and a thoroughly efficient faculty.

The water works system, which is about completed at a cost of $80,000 is next in order, and in addition about $2,000 has been expended in grading and fixing the streets in the city. Six handsome two-story brick business houses have been erected during the year, as follows: W. C. Wightman, red stone front, $7,000; P. L. Miller, white stone front, $6,000; B. J. Kass, white stone front, $6,000; M. P. Ahern, $5,800; H. B. Boyd, $4,000; R. E. K. Mellor, $5,500.

John T. Bressler has just completed the most handsome residence in the city at a cost of $12,000, which is furnished with all the modern improvements, such as water works, furnace and wires for electric lights. A. A. Welch has built a handsome residence costing $3,000. The extensive brick yard plant of J. S. Lewis, jr., which was recently destroyed by fire will be rebuilt at a cost of $4,000. A large addition has been added to the depot, providing a ladies waiting room, a gents waiting room, a baggage room and a large freight room. In addition to the above over seventy new residences and additions have been built, ranging in cost from $500 to $3,500 each. The improvements in Wayne for the year 1892 will reach the magnificent total of $140,000.

Growth of Grand Island.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Dec. 30.—Perhaps the greatest improvement made in this city during the past year is the change of location for the Union Pacific depot and the new building the company put up for that purpose. This was done at a cost of $60,000. The year of 1892 has also marked the beginning of the Grand Island college, at first called the Grand Island Baptist college. The buildings and grounds, valued at $70,000, were completed this year, and the school opened. What is more of a private enterprise, the Grand Island Mercantile company, wholesale groceries, has been secured within the past six months. The capital of the firm is $100,000. This gives Grand Island two good wholesale groceries, Menton, Woodward & Co. also having increased their capacity.

The Grand Island Banking company has built a large addition to its building at an estimated cost of $15,000, this being now one of the principal office buildings. In the departments of the city government there has been considerable improvements in two: that of the fire department and in the branch of public streets. A number of main streets have been opened and stone crosswalks placed where wooden ones claimed the attention of the contractor every six months. The fire department has been provided with new hose carts in each ward and an additional engine house has been built in the suburb West Lawn. A great improvement is now under way in the hotel line. Mr. Gus Kachen, a prominent citizen and member of the city council is putting up a $75,000 hotel, just opposite the new depot, the foundation of which is nearly finished.

The Grand Island Mill and Elevator company has been reopened and the plant improved by $10,000 worth of new machinery, greatly increasing its capacity. Quite a number of residences have been built, aggregating about $40,000, and the Oxnard company has added $10,000 in improvements.

In contemplation are: Incandecents lights by a local combination and local capital; a motor system by the Grand Island Street Railway company, a new business block by James Michelson and telephone connection with the larger cities of the state.

Lexington's Big Showing.

LEXINGTON, Dec. 30.—The public and private improvements at Lexington for 1892 are about $110,000. Prominent among them are:

Water works system	$20,000
Electric light plant	5,000
Catholic church	5,000
Spradling Barnes block	15,000
Wolbach block	10,000
Hall block	10,000
Second Ward school	15,000
Fair ground buildings	2,000

Numerous private dwellings and smaller structures run the amount fully up to $110,000 expended in the past year.

Norfolk Growing Rapidly.

NORFOLK, Neb., Dec. 30.—Among the private improvements in Norfolk since January 1 is a new four-story brick hotel, built by Kyner & McDonald, Omaha, cost $50,000; Robertson, Wigton, & Whitham, two-story brick store and offices, cost $7,000; Charles Rudat, two-story brick store room, cost $6,000; Hollihan & Satter, brick, cost $3,000; S. S. Cobb, brick store building, cost $4,000; Mr. Taylor, brick store building, cost $4,000; railroad employes' store building and hall, cost, $2,500, and scores of fine dwellings. The Yankton & Norfolk railroad is nearly completed, and the sugar factory has probably expended $500,000 here this year. Norfolk is growing rapidly and capitalists have confidence in her future prosperity.

Bloomington's All Right.

BLOOMINGTON, Neb., Dec. 30.—Bloomington has recently voted internal improvements in amount of $5,500 for a system of waterworks. Wells and wind mills will supply the water.

It is rumored that the Rock Island company proposes building over the survey made by them through this place during the season of 1888.

Beatrice's Bright Outlook.

BEATRICE, Neb., Dec. 30.—It is seriously to be questioned whether any city in the state of Nebraska can show a greater ratio of improvement and development during the past year than Beatrice. In collating this information for THE BEE, the writer was astonished at the aggregate sum expended in public and private improvements as well as the aggregate sum to be expended during the opening season of the coming year of 1893. The figures herewith given of the actual amounts expended in building enterprises in this city since January 1, 1892, up to the present date, November 30, or during the eleven months of the year now closing, are not estimates, but represent the actual amount of money expended in the improvements enumerated. They tell their own story:

Federal building at Sixth and Ella streets, $45,000; Lang building at Sixth and Ella streets, $10,000; Wolf-Bartling building, Court street, near Sixth, $15,000; Hotel Blakely at Ella and Fifth streets, $80,000; Randall building, Court, near Eighth street, $10,000; Neidhart marble building at Market and Sixth, $10,000; King & Ewing building, West Court street, $5,000; Beatrice National bank, improvement, Sixth and Court, $10,000; Hewekerl building, Court, near Sixth street, $25,000; Rapid Transit power house, South Sixth street, $5,000; Fairview school building, $7,500; Glenover school building, $7,500. All of the foregoing are built of brick or stone.

The following comprise frame structures built or completed during the year:

Oat meal mill, South Seventh street, $10,000; Black Bros'. flouring mill at Court and the river, $75,000; overall factory, Glenover, $5,000; Second Presbyterian church, West Court street, $5,000; German Methodist church, North Bluff street, $1,000; German Baptist church, South Center street, $1,000; Buchanan & Dodd's elevator, Court street, near B. & M., $3,000; two private residences at $10,000 each, $20,000; three private residences at $5,000 each, $15,000; five private residences at $3,000 each, $15,000; eight private residences at $2,500 each, $20,000; ten private residences at $1,000 each, $10,000.

There has been expended in public improvements:

Paving and curbing Market street, from Second to Sixth, $25,000; paving and curbing West Court, $45,000; approach to Scott street bridge, $1,500; new iron bridge across Blue river at Sixth street, $15,000; street grading, etc., $5,000.

Public improvements by private enterprise:

Beatrice Rapid Transit and Power company, purchase, relaying and equipping for electric motor purposes, the street railway tracks of the city, not so equipped, $50,000; improvements about Union Pacific, B. & M., Rock Island, and Kansas City, Wyandotte & Northwestern Railroad companies' yards and depots, $5,000; making a grand total expended during the year for public and private improvements of $556,000. There are under contemplation in the city at the present time, the following improvements: Beautifying county court house grounds and new county jail, $40,000; beautifying and improving public school grounds, $5,000; improving First Presbyterian church and for parsonage, $12,000; paving, grading and curbing East Market street, $40,000; paving, grading and curbing North Seventh street, $50,000; paving, grading and curbing North Fourth street, $30,000; business blocks and private residences, $150,000; total value of improvements under contract for the season of 1893, $327,000.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Very Light Receipts and Very Anxious Buyers Make Lively Trading.

OMAHA, Dec. 26—Monday's receipts especially of hogs are never excessive, but the meager supplies of all kinds of stock received today were a surprise to the trade. The extreme cold weather and the fact that the day was very generally observed as a holiday will account for the fact that but thirty-six cars of both cattle and hogs were received. There were 704 cattle, 256 hogs and no sheep, as against 2,281 cattle, 3,741 hogs and 220 sheep Saturday and 1,562 cattle, 3,216 hogs and 134 sheep last Monday.

There were hardly enough cattle here to make a market, but as the supply, both here and at Chicago, fell so far short of the estimates, buyers proposed to take no chances and went after the cattle with an evident determination to get them regardless of cost. To add to the strength of the situation the very bullish advices from eastern markets induced a good speculative inquiry and the market was of the excited and jumping kind. Prices ruled unevenly higher, the advance on Saturday being anywhere from 10c to 40c but on an average all of 25c. Instead, as is usually the case, of the salesmen hunting the buyers, it was a case of buyers hunting the salesmen and once found no holder of cattle was allowed to escape until he had "dropped his string." It was a very satisfactory market for the selling interests as far as it went and the only regret is that there were not more shippers here to enjoy the "Christmas picnic." Some pretty fair 1,378-lb steers went to a shipper at $4.75 and anything with a decent amount of meat on its ribs sold at $3.75 or over. The meager offerings had all changed hands some time before the 12 o'clock whistle blew.

Over a third of the offerings were cows and mixed stock, but as considerable of this class of stock had been held over from Saturday on account of the poor demand and low prices then prevailing, there was not the same excitement as in the steers. The market ruled about 10c to 15c higher than Saturday and the movement was free at this advance. There was nothing exactly choice here, but some only pretty good heifersh stuff brought $3 and the big bulk of the fair to good cows sold at from $2 to $2.50. Bulls, oxen and stags were wanted at stronger prices and desirable veal calves sold readily at $4 and $5.

There was hardly anything going on in the stocker and feeder line. Fresh receipts were decidedly light and there was no country demand to speak of. Yard speculators took a few for which they paid strong prices and one or two country orders for choice feeders had to remain unfilled.

HOGS—Fresh receipts were only four loads, practically only two, as the other two did not get in till after the market was over. Four loads were held over from Saturday, but the entire supply on sale amounted to less than 700 hogs. There were not enough hogs to go around, and as Chicago was reported higher, only one house, Hammond, wanted the few hogs there had come to pay an advance of 5c to 10c over Saturday's closing prices. The range was narrow and practically everything, good, bad and indifferent, sold at $5.35 and $5.40. The bulk of the sales on Saturday were at $5.30 to $5.35, and on last Monday the bulk of the trading was at $5.30 to $5.35. The pens were closed by 9 o'clock and the two late loads were allowed to go over.

SHEEP—No fresh sheep were received and none were on sale. Good muttons and feeders are both in active demand at fair prices, the supply being far short here of the requirements of the trade.

Receipts and Disposition of Stock.

Official receipts and disposition of stock as shown by the books of the Union Stock Yards company for the forty-eight hours ending at 5 o'clock p. m. December 26, 1892:

RECEIPTS.

CATTLE.		HOGS.		SHEEP.		HORSES & MLS	
Cars.	Head	Cars.	Head	Cars.	Head	Cars.	Head.
32	704	4	256	.....	....	.....	.....

DISPOSITION.

BUYERS.	CATTLE.	HOGS.	SHEEP.
The G. H. Hammond Co.	72	521	.....
Swift & Co.	284	.....	.....
The Cudahy Packing Co.	107	.....	.....
A. Haas	166	.....	.....
R. Becker & D.	166	.....	.....
Shippers and Feeders	110	.....	.....
Total	845	521	.....

Omaha Produce Market.

The day was pretty generally observed as a holiday and there was practically no market. The market is undoubtedly full of poultry though dealers are trying to keep on a brave face and make it appear that there is no glut.

APPLES—Good apples are quoted at $3.50@4.00; choice to fancy, $4.00@4.25.

BANANAS—Quotations are: Fair to good shipping stock, $2.00@2.50 per bunch.

BUTTER—The general market is steady. The bulk of the receipts sells at 14@16c, and some select packages at 17@19c.

CRANBERRIES—Quotations are: Bell and cherry, $8.50 per bbl; bell and bugle, $9.50; late Cape Cod, $10.00. The arrivals on the market are light.

CELERY—Fancy celery is difficult to find. Quotations range all the way from 25c to 40c.

EGGS—Market steady; bulk of the sales of bright stock, 22@24c.

GAME—The market does not show any very material change in values. There was a novelty in the market in the way of a black bear which found a ready purchaser. Quotations are: Pheasants, $5.00@5.50; prairie chickens, $4.00@4.50; grouse, $4.00; mallard, $1.00@1.25; snipe, $1.00; jack snipe, $1.25@1.50; plover, $1.00; golden plover, $1.25@1.50; canvas back ducks, $8.00@10.00; red head ducks, $4.00; mallard ducks, $3.50@3.75; blue wing teal, $2.25; green wing teal, $1.75; mixed ducks, $1.50; Canada geese, $5.00@7.50; jack rabbits, $1.50; small rabbits, $1.25@1.50; squirrels, $1.00@1.25; antelope saddles, 14@15c; deer saddles, 15@16c; antelope carcasses, 9@10c; deer carcasses, 10@12c.

HAY—The market was overstocked and very weak. No. 1, $6.75@7.00; No. 2, $6.00.

HONEY—The market is firm, good white clover honey being scarce at 17c.

LEMONS—Choice, $4.50; fancy, $5.50.

MALAGA GRAPES—Per keg, $9.00.

OYSTERS—Unchanged at 13@35c per can.

ONIONS—Homegrown, 80@85c; Spanish, $1.90 per crate.

ORANGES—Florida, $3.25@3.50.

POTATOES—Quotations are: Homegrown, 65@75c; Colorado and Utah, 80c.

POULTRY—Turkeys, choice, 10c; geese and ducks, 7@8c; chickens, 4@6c.

SWEET POTATOES—Choice Muscatine and Illinois stock, $3.75@4.00 per bbl.

VEAL—Quotations are: Small and fat, 6½@7c; large and heavy, 3@5c.

Ignorance of the merits of DeWitt's Little Early Risers is a misfortune. These little pills regulate the liver, cure headache, dyspepsia, bad breath, constipation and biliousness.

HELD A ROYAL FLUSH.

A Conductor Returns the Hospitable Treatment of a Train Robber.

Conductor Bywater of the Great Northern road, who was on the train recently held up near Great Falls, Mont., tells an interesting story of the robbery and the capture of the last of the robbers. When he got out on that dark night to see what was the reason for the train stopping so unexpectedly, he was startled to be ordered to throw up his hands and to find a man looking at him from the shadow of the train along the barrel of a cocked Winchester which was pointed directly at him. He promptly complied, of course, as did the brakeman who was with him, and after standing for about ten minutes in the frosty night air Bywater remarked that he wished the next time the robbers undertook a job of this kind they would give him notice so he could bring his overcoat with him, whereupon the robber laughed and said he could not give him an overcoat but he would give him a drink and he pulled out a flask of whisky. Bywater started to get the flask, thinking that if he could once get to close quarters he would be able to overpower the robber, but when he got within about ten feet of him the man thought the better of his proposal and ordered him to stay where he was and tossed the flask toward him. After taking a drink and passing it to the brakeman he again attempted to return the flask to the robber, but he was too wary and made him back off, remarking that he didn't care to become too familiar on short acquaintance.

However, Bywater got a pretty good look at the robber, and having been appointed a deputy United States marshal for the purpose he started out for Malta to look him up and return his hospitable treatment. He found his man in a saloon and sitting down with him proposed a game of hearts and passed a pleasant afternoon in his society, and purchasing liquid refreshments on a generous scale for his friend until the proper moment arrived when he displayed a trump hand with six cartridges in and invited his companion to take a trip to the Falls with him, and the cowboy seeing that his opponent played a strong hand and had the best of the game, owned up to being beaten and went along.

Constipation cured by DeWitt's Early Risers.

THE ART OF STAGE ROBBING

Skill and Courage of the Men Who Enforce Their Livelihood.

AS SHOWN BY CALIFORNIA ROAD AGENTS

Captain Hume's Thirty-five Years Experience Protecting Mountain Expresses—Interesting Stories of Black Bart and His Fellows.

Captain James B. Hume has been catching stage robbers in the mountains of California and the other Pacific coast states and territories for Wells, Fargo & Co. for the past thirty-five years. Catching stage robbers is a regular business with him, says the New York Sun, but no more so than the robbing of stages is with the men he pursues.

Once a stage robber always a stage robber, the captain thinks, and he comes pretty near proving it in a little book he published a few years ago, giving descriptions and records of 205 stage robbers. The title of the book is "Robbers' Records." It is not for sale, nor was it published for general circulation, but is a diligently thumbed volume in possession of all far western sheriffs, chiefs of police and detectives, for whom it was issued.

The fact that Wells, Fargo & Co. have for years been practically the only carriers of money into the western mining camps and bullion from the camps has made their stages the pet regard of gentlemen of the road, and, in turn, has compelled the company to maintain a special detective bureau at the head of which for many years Captain Hume has carried on the war with the robbers. It amounts to a war, in fact, for during the comparatively brief period covered by his book the compiler shows that thirty-three men and seven horses have been killed in conflicts with the robbers and twelve men seriously wounded. Captain Hume was in New York a few hours last Friday, not long enough to be interviewed, he said, but an introduction secured a Sun reporter possession of the captain's private copy of his "Robber's Record," from which some interesting facts were obtained.

A glance through the record first impresses the fact that the stage robber never leaves prison, even when he is pardoned, except to make his way with astonishing promptness to the nearest lonely mountain road and there rob a stage. John J. Ivey is a convincing example. His record is thirteen robberies and burglaries, eight times in prison and six escapes from prison Whether Mr. Ivey left prison by discharge or escape he lost no time in returning to the road.

"Old Jim Smith" had a varied prison record including about every known method of getting from behind the bar. Three times he escaped and three times was discharged upon expiration of terms and each time he returned to the road. The next time the governor of California tried the experiment of pardoning him, but "Old Jim" was not to be moved to righteousness by mild means for the record shows that he was back in prison after two months liberty upon conviction of a fresh robbery. Having exhausted all other means of getting out alive "Old Jim" next worked the insanity dodge and was transferred to an asylum.

In a great majority of cases conviction promptly follows the offense, for stage robbers generally, while daring to the point of death, are seldom clever at hiding or escaping. The most notable exception to this rule is the case of Charles E. Bolton, otherwise known to fame as "Black Bart." He is incomparably the most picturesque character in Captain Hume's "Record." From 1875 to 1883 he is known to have committed twenty-seven stage robberies, always alone. He was the terror of the stage drivers in the mountain regions of northern California, and although the robbed drivers and passengers were able to give a good description of his figure, hair, feet, hands, and even his walk, no clew to his actual identity was gained during the eight years of his successful career. He was finally betrayed by a laundry mark on a cuff which had been wrenched from his wrist during his exertions in opening a treasure box which he obtained from a Wells-Fargo stage in San Joaquin county, Cal. When he was captured in San Francisco the detectives were amazed to find the famous Black Bart to be a slight, quiet-mannered man of 55, familiar in face to nearly all the San Francisco detectives, for he had for years frequented a comfortable little restaurant near police headquarters, where many of the detectives dined. His record, after giving a very detailed physical description of him, has this to say of his other characteristics:

"He is a person of great endurance, a thorough mountaineer and a great walker, and cannot be excelled in making quick trasits over mountains and grades. He is comparatively well educated, a general reader, cool, self-contained, a sententious talker, with waggish tendencies. He is neat and tidy in dress, highly respectable in appearance, extremely proper and polite in behavior, and chaste in language. He has never been known to gamble, other than buying pools on horse races and speculating in mining stocks."

Black Bart was able to elude the officers so long owing to his ability to make almost incredible marches over the mountains. After holding up a stage he would strike off from the road, stopping neither for sleep nor food until he reached another covering, a distance the officers would never dream he could make in the time; stop another stage, repeat his wonderful tramp to another road, from which, mills away from the spot where he was looked for, he could return unmolested to his leisurely life in San Francisco. In every treasure box he ever emptied he left some verses, witty or satirical, signed "P. O. 8." His intimate knowledge of mountain roads enabled him to select times and places for his work so as to secure freadom from interruption by other travelers. Black Bart is a native of New York. He is now at large.

Opposed to his quiet and lonely work, the experiences of a genial road agent known as William Smith stand in curious contrast. Smith is a young German, and is otherwise known as C. P. Weibusch. Smith was first convicted in Nevada, in 1879, of robbing the occupant of a buckboard who was traveling behind a stage, allowing the stage to pass unmolested for that purpose. He was pardoned in April, 1881, and here is Captain Hume's story of his next experience.

"June 29, 1881, robbed Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express on stage from Sierraville to Truckee, alone. While waiting in ambush for the arrival of the stage from Sierra Valley, Sol Rousseau appeared with a light wagon and six passengers. The robber stood them all up, out of sight of the road, for one and a half hours, until the stage from Sierra Valley arrived. This contained four passengers, all of whom were compelled to get down, except G. Q. Buxton, the driver, who was obliged to break open Wells, Fargo & Co.'s box, and hand out the contents. While this was going on two other vehicles approached, and the driver in each was compelled to get down and mingle with the audience. At the close of the afternoon's performance he had thirteen men, sixteen horses, and four vehicles under the control of his little shotgun."

The robber used a double-barreled shotgun sawed off for greater convenience in use.

After another robbery in the same vicinity in the following August Mr. Smith appeared further down the mountain side for his third robbery after pardon, and Captain Hume tells the story thus:

"Robbed Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express on stage from Milton to Sonora, December 29, 1881. Also robbed United States mail. In this instance he held the stage one and a half hours, endeavoring to break open the iron box. During this time one passenger from Sonora and two from Milton appeared, all three of whom he compelled to halt while he was working on the box."

Captain Hume landed Mr. Smith in prison then, but in 1885 he was discharged. He again toyed with express boxes and mail pouches, and was sent to the California state prison for life, to the relief of the captain and all mountain excursion parties.

As desperate a character as ever troubled Captain Hume was a young Missourian named M. A. Sharp. He worked on the stage road over which Wells, Fargo & Co. carried the gold from the Bodie mines in California to the Carson mint in Nevada. In four months of 1880 he held up six stages before being caught, and then he escaped from jail. On his last job he worked with a companion, for the stage they were to hold was known to carry a guard, or "shotgun messenger," as he is called. When the order to "throw down the box" was given the messenger fired and killed Sharp's companion. Sharp's sho had badly wounded the messenger. Sharp disappeared. The messenger then started for a neighboring ranch house to have his wound dressed, and in his absence Sharp returned to the stage, which was detained by the dead horse, and robbed the box of $700, breaking it open by the side of his dead companion.

A desperate gang of stage and train robbers escaped from the Nevada state prison in Carson on September 17, 1871, and their escape resulted in one of the fiercest battles the Wells-Fargo men ever engaged in. The deed was planned by twelve of the most desperate prisoners, who broke into the guard room got possession of the prison arms and ammunition. In attempting to prevent the break the lieutenant governor of the state, Frank Denver, who was also warden of the prison, and two of the guards were seriously wounded and two guards were killed by the prisoners. A citizen living outside the walls, who rushed in to resist, was also killed. The twelve ringleaders opened all the cell doors, but only seventeen prisoners joined in their flight.

Among the leaders was Leander Morton, a train robber, who in company with five others, named Jones, Roberts Cockrill, Burk and Black, separated from the other runaways and made in the direction of the mountains near Bodie. On the third day they met a boy named Poor carrying the United States mail on horseback. Fearing this meeting would lead to their pursuit and recapture they killed the boy, piled sage brush over his body and fired it. The whole country was aroused and the convicts were run down by some of Captain Hume's men and a sheriff's posse. The convicts made a desperate fight, and one of Wells, Fargo & Co's men and a deputy sheriff were killed. One of the convicts was wounded and three more captured. The citizens hanged two of the robbers, one of them being the stage and train robber, Leander Morton.

There are very few "Black Barts" among the road agents Captain Hume has to deal with. Few of them are "gentlemanly and mild mannered," as Black Bart is described. Most of the characters in the captain's little book, published for "the trade only," so to say, are quite as willing to take a life as to make the request, "Throw down that box."

Perfect action and perfect health result from the use of DeWitt's Little Early Risers A perfect little pill.

SWEATING SHOPS.

Result of an Investigation in the Large Cities.

Congressman Warner of New York, the chairman of the subcommittee of the house committee on manufactures, which was directed to inquire into the sweating system, has returned to Washington after a thorough investigation of the workings of the system in the cities of New York, Chicago and Boston. On being asked how the condition of New York compared with that of the other cities, Mr. Warner said:

"They are so similar as to be scarcely distinguishable, except as modified by the different conditions of the several cities. In Chicago, for example, this sweating business is carried on in quarters where the streets are practically bottomless, and the buildings are rotten and disgusting, as well as inadequate and unfitted for human occupation. These buildings are generally frame and two stories in height, with basements generally below the sidewalk. Hence there is nothing like that possibility of crowding were those quarters more closely and substantially built up.

"The condition of the sweating industry there, however, is as disgusting and the liability to contagious and epidemic diseases as great as in New York. In Boston the industry seems to be carried on almost exclusively in extremely old but fairly substantial buildings in the most crowded quarters, so that while the municipal conditions are better the result is an even greater liability to contagion in the limited area covered.

"In New York the streets are as a whole much better paved and cared for than in Chicago and much more spacious and afford more breathing room than in Boston. While the tenements in New York are on the one hand far more like human hives than those in Chicago and Boston they are more recently and solidly built and therefore on the average much less squalid and uncomfortable. The humane conditions are practically identical and the general result varies only by essential local conditions."

"What do you find to be the attitude of the local authorities?" was asked.

"One of prompt co-operation in every case, and one of frank admission that the evil was beyond their power to handle.

"As to dangerous contagion there is equally little distinction. In Chicago we saw the scarlet fever signs posted up where the sweating system had been carried on and in a neighborhood where it was still being prosecuted. In Boston we stumbled into proximity with the disease in a room while in the house the manufacture of clothing was going on. It was not occupied by the same family, but it opened upon the same corridor. In New York one of the most typical instances was where we found poor wretches working under the most filthy conditions at 10 o'clock Sunday night, when in the next block to them the typhus had broken out only last summer."

"What was the general result of your investigation?" was the next question.

"We have," replied Mr. Warren, "verified, not merely as instances, but as a general condition, the worst that has been alleged. But, with one exception, we have met with no proof of immorality, and, speaking for myself, I have the greatest respect for the manliness and the womanliness of the persons employed. From the testimony taken we find repeated instances where, at 9 and at 10 o'clock at night, the operatives were still continuing their work. They had begun their work at 5 or 7 a. m., and the so-called 'sweater,' or boss, worked along with them, bringing work for them the next morning. It was not unusual to find eight or ten people with their machines, tables, etc., crowded into a twelve by fifteen foot room. In the majority of cases the living room of a family was connected with the shop, and garments, finished and unfinished, were scattered about indiscriminately. Of child labor, I personally saw but few instances; but I did see a little girl about 8 years of age, at 9:30 in the evening, dragging along a bundle which she was physically unable to carry and acting as a human express for the transfer of goods. Children in every condition of filth and health swarmed in most of the shops. In the last one we visited everyone had gone except two wornout fellows who had made a pile of the bundles of goods ready to be made up, upon which, without bedclothes, they proposed to sleep without change of the filthy condition of their persons or their clothes. The 'sweater' and the 'sweated' perfectly agreed as to the miserably low wages paid."

COMPETITION'S ROLE REVERSED.

This Economic Factor No Longer the Life of Trade, but the Death of Profit.

Compared with the last four or five generations what are the chances for the next four or five? asks Erastus Wiman in the current number of The Engineering Magazine. How will it be for boys that grow up during the period wherein the population is approaching 150,000,000? The avenues of effort, even in this year of 1892, are pretty well crowded. It is pretty hard work to get into a business now in which competition does not destroy all possibility of profit. The rank and file of business men will admit that the old motto which alleged that "competition is the life of trade" has been reversed. It is now the death of profit. So in the professions there are more lawyers and doctors than are needed and the mills of learning are grinding out a yearly supply of these in far greater proportion than the increase in population. If this crowded condition exists among business men, if it is reflected in the professions, it is even more painfully evident in the widened area of labor. Strikes and organized demands are the evidences of unrest and discontent at the congested conditions that prevail, while the enormous arrivals from foreign shores, added to the large natural increase in the laboring population year by year, intensify the situation. Overproduction in manufactures, as the result of a stimulating national policy, is well nigh universal. Boots and shoes for 100,000,000 of people; collars and cuffs for 150,000,000; woolen goods for twice the population, which with other disabilities have destroyed all vestige of profits—these, together with a proportionate production in all other branches, are the results attained in the closing decade of the first half century of real industrial activity of this people.

OMAHA Manufacturers' and Jobbers' Directory

AWNINGS AND TENTS.

Omaha Tent-Awning COMPANY. HORSE COVERS. 1113 Farnam St.

BAGS AND TWINES.

Bemis Omaha Bag COMPANY. Importers and manufrs flour sacks, burlaps, twine.

BICYCLES.

M. O. Daxon, Bicycles sold on monthly payments 123 N. 15th.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Morse-Coe Shoe Company, Howard street. Factory corner 11th and Douglas Streets. We are making close prices to cash buyers, and are selling a class of goods which is very saleable with merchants.

Kirkendall, Jones & Amer. COMPANY. Wholesale mfrs agents Boston Rubber Shoe Co., 1107-1109-1106 Harney St.

Hand-Sewed SHOE CO. boots, shoes and rubber goods. 1308-1310 Harney St.

COAL, COKE.

Omaha Coal, Coke & LIME CO., hard and soft coal, S. E. cor. 10th and Douglas Sts.

CORNICE.

Eagle Cornice Works Mfrs. galvanized iron cornice, window caps, metallic skylights, etc. 1108-1112 Dodge St.

DRY GOODS.

M. E. Smith & Co., Dry goods, notions, furnishing goods, corner 16th and Howard Sts.

Kilpatrick-Koch Dry GOODS CO. Notions, coats, furnishing goods cor. 16th and Harney Sts.

FURNITURE.

Omaha Upholstering CO., upholstered furniture, 1102-1104 Nicholas St. Wholesale only.

Babbitt & Runyan FURNITURE CO., Grace and 13th Sts.

GROCERIES.

D. M. Steele & Co., 1201-1203 Jones St., Omaha.

DRUGS, ETC.

Blake, Bruce & Co., 10th and Harney Sts., Omaha.

HARDWARE.

Rector & Wilhelmy COMPANY. Corner 10th and Jackson Streets.

Lobeck & Linn, Dealers in hardware and mechanics' tools. 1404 Douglas St.

HATS, ETC.

W. A. L. Gibbon & Co. Wholesale Hats, caps, straw goods, gloves, mittens, 24th and Harney sts.

LUMBER.

John A. Wakefield, Imported American Portland cement. Milwaukee cement and Quincy white lime.

Charles R. Lee, Hardwood lumber, wood carpets and parquet flooring, 9th and Douglas.

LIQUORS.

Frick & Harbert, Wholesale liquor dealers 1001 Farnam St.

MILLINERY.

I. Oberfelder & Co. Importers and jobbers of millinery, notions. Mail orders promptly filled. 206-212 S. 11th St.

PAPER.

Carpenter Paper Co. Carry a full stock of printing, wrapping and writing papers, card paper, etc.

OILS.

Standard Oil Co., Refined and lubricating oils, axle grease, et