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Congressmen with a bill should have no difficulty getting it changed.

President Roosevelt has pushed the button and congress must do the rest.

A western point of view can be distinctly identified in several passages of the president's message.

One of the savings banks of Davenport, Ia., has over 12,000 depositors. The Davenport man who has no bank account must feel lonesome.

Western members of congress have decided to act as a unit on irrigation matters. The trouble is that each member insists that his plan be that adopted by the unit.

The first contest in congress was over the rules. Queensberry rules would suit the democrats—they admit of an unlimited amount of talk before the real contest is pulled off.

As an author of instructive literature President Roosevelt's latest contribution will make him the most widely read writer of the day, although the royalties may not count very heavy.

The Lincoln postmaster has become a big bone of contention. There are enough bones of this character, big and little, scattered throughout the state to construct a skeleton of mastodontic dimensions.

To avoid trouble in the future it might be well to have General Wheeler go down to the San Juan battlefield and mark the tree which the old veteran climbed. It would save a vast waste of words in dispute in the future.

In introducing the Gorman tariff bill the imperial chancellor clearly indicated that it was the purpose to take up the idea of reciprocity as an incident to the protective tariff. If Germany is ready to "swap" fair it will find Uncle Sam open for a deal.

Representative Stark of Nebraska is the only populist in congress who has declined to go into the democratic caucus, which practically means abandoning populism. If the proceedings of the populist caucus get out there will be no difficulty in locating the leak.

A small boy is accused of breaking a shell case in Omaha's Public Library museum and stealing a Malantria, a Plyphosylus and a Carthidra from the collection. Possibly he did, but it will require an ocular demonstration to convince most people that a small boy ever carried off such a load.

A democratic congressional caucus has been called to decide upon party policy. Democracy regularly holds a caucus for this purpose and as regularly resolves to oppose anything and everything the republicans may advocate. If the members have any business on hand it would be just as well to waive the formality of a caucus.

It does not matter very much whether the senators from Nebraska occupy front seats or rear seats in the senate chamber, but it does matter a great deal what the occupants of the chairs will accomplish for the state and nation. They cannot absorb knowledge from the chairs. "Where Macgregor sits," there is the head of the table.

Nebraska democratic editors, or many of them, are now declaring that David B. Hill can never be the democratic candidate for president. If he should be nominated these same editors would speedily pronounce Hill the greatest democrat living. Nebraska democratic editors have swallowed so many doses of political cod liver oil that they can gulp down anything without making a gag.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Roosevelt's first message to congress is a comprehensive and instructive presentation and discussion of public questions. It is an exceptionally long message, but this is justified by the clear and thorough treatment of the matters considered, and no citizen who is interested in these matters will find perusal of the message laborious or tedious, the president's literary method being such as to hold the attention and maintain the interest of the reader.

President Roosevelt's tribute to his lamented predecessor is entirely admirable and his denunciation of anarchism and anarchists will have the hearty approval of all persons who have respect for law and government. The president declares that anarchy is no more an expression of "social discontent" than picking pockets or wife-beating. He characterizes the anarchist, particularly in this country, as one of the most dangerous and the most depraved in a greater degree. He thinks anarchists should not be allowed at large and regards their speeches, writings and meetings as essentially seditious and treasonable. He would have anarchists kept out of the country and if found here deported to the country from which they came. For those who stay, that is, anarchists born here, the president urges far-reaching provision for their punishment.

In regard to dealing with the great corporations the president counsels caution. He holds that they are not due to the tariff nor to any other governmental action, but to natural causes in the business world. He says it cannot be too often pointed out that to strike with ignorant violence at the interests of one of the most important and the most dangerous of men almost inevitably endangers the interests of all. "The mechanism of modern business is so delicate that extreme care must be taken not to interfere with it in a spirit of rashness or ignorance." The president's view is that the industrial combinations should be supervised and within reasonable limits controlled, but not prohibited. He urges publicity as the first essential in determining how to deal with the combinations. The government should have the right to inspect and examine the great corporations engaged in interstate business. "Publicity," he says, "is the only sure remedy which we can now invoke. What further remedies are needed in the way of governmental regulation, or taxation, can only be determined after publicity has been obtained, by process of law and in the course of administration. The first requisite is knowledge which may be made public to the world."

The president is not in favor of tariff revision. He says there is general acquiescence in the existing economic policy and its continuity and stability is the first requisite to our prosperity. "Nothing could be more unwise than to disturb the business interests of the country by any general tariff change at this time. Doubt, apprehension, uncertainty are exactly what we most wish to avoid in the interest of our commercial and material well-being." In regard to reciprocity the president says it must be treated as the handmaiden of protection, that "our first duty is to see that the protection granted by the tariff in every case where it is needed is maintained and that reciprocity be sought for so far as it can safely be done without injury to our home industries." He says that reciprocity must command our hearty support, "subject to the proper protection necessary to our industrial well-being." In the opinion of the president "the natural line of development for a policy of reciprocity will be in connection with those of our productions which no longer receive all the support needed to establish them upon a sound basis, and with those others where either because of natural or of economic causes we are beyond the reach of successful competition."

President Roosevelt makes a strong argument for an American merchant marine, pointing out the advantages to be obtained in foreign trade by having our own ships. He declares that it is unwise from every standpoint for this country to continue to rely upon the ships of competing nations for the distribution of our goods. It is to be inferred that the president would approve the ship subsidy bill if passed by congress. The president shows an earnest interest in the matter of reclamation of the arid lands, saying that it would enrich every portion of the country. He urges that the policy of the national government should be to aid irrigation in the several states and territories in such manner as will enable the people in the local communities to help themselves and as well stimulate needed reforms in the state laws and regulations governing irrigation.

In regard to the important question of commercial relations with Cuba, President Roosevelt recommends a substantial reduction in the tariff duties on imports from that island. He says that Cuba should stand, in international matters, in closer and more friendly relations with us than with any other power, "and we are bound by every consideration of honor and expediency to pass commercial measures in the interest of her material well-being." Undoubtedly the position of the administration on this question will have a decided influence upon congress and it is safe to say that tariff concessions will be made to Cuba, though doubtless not to the extent the Cubans desire. The message gives extended consideration to the Philippines and suggests that perhaps the work of establishing local self-government there has been pushed too rapidly. It is urged that there should be additional legislation for the islands, particularly with reference to the introduction of industrial enterprises.

The construction of an isthmian canal is urged as of the very highest importance to the American people and the president says of the new treaty with Great Britain that it guarantees to this nation every right that it has ever asked in connection with the canal. The president evidently expects that the treaty will be promptly ratified. The message gives renewed assurance to the countries south of us of the cordial friendship

of the United States and says that the Monroe doctrine should be the cardinal feature of the foreign policy of all the nations of the two Americas. The work of upbuilding the navy, the president says, must be steadily continued, while as to the army he says it is now large enough and it is only necessary to keep it at the highest point of efficiency. He recommends the creation of a general staff.

The president suggests changes in the immigration law and it is not improbable that his suggestions will be acted upon. He is in favor of a reduction in revenue, approving in this matter the recommendations of the secretary of the treasury. The re-enactment of the Chinese exclusion law is urged, with the recommendation that it be made stronger. In this connection the president makes an earnest plea for the protection of American labor. The message counsels congress against extravagance in expenditures, but it is to be apprehended that this very proper advice will not be heeded.

President Roosevelt has given the country a careful and thoughtful consideration of public questions which every citizen will find it profitable to read.

THE STATE TREASURER'S EXHIBIT. State Treasurer Stuefer has submitted his semi-annual report of the receipts and disbursements of his office, with a specific exhibit of the funds deposited in the various banks and the cash on hand in the treasury vault. This report is certified as correct by the governor, secretary of state and attorney general, as members of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds. Mr. Stuefer includes in his report this declaration:

I desire to state there is nothing covered up or hidden in this office and that I am perfectly willing to submit every transaction to the most thorough examination and the most searching scrutiny by the proper authority.

The Bee has no disposition to question the correctness of Mr. Stuefer's book-keeping nor to cast any reflections upon the officers who have certified to it. While this exhibit for the first time complies with the demand of the republican state convention, it will not be accepted by intelligent people as a satisfactory explanation of Mr. Stuefer's methods of investing the school funds and their speculative use for private gain.

The mere fact that on the first day of December, 1901, the treasurer is able to show that only a fraction over \$18,000 remained in the vault of the state treasury will fool nobody into the belief that the school moneys previously reported as "balance on hand" had not been deposited at interest in banks. The fact that \$80,000 in bank checks signed by Mr. Stuefer as treasurer were used by a middleman in the purchase of the Burt county bonds, of which \$70,000 was in a bank that had not been a designated depository, is proof conclusive that the school funds have not been kept in the vaults of the treasury. Nobody contends that this money should be constantly in the treasury vault, but it would have been more creditable for the treasurer to have made a clean breast of it months ago than to have pretended that he could not legally do what he and every other state treasurer had been doing all the time.

Mr. Stuefer tells us now that there is nothing covered or hidden in his office and offers to submit every transaction to the most searching examination of the proper authority. This does not meet all the points at issue. Up to the disclosures of the county bond deals the demand was simply for information concerning the amounts and places of deposit of the public money in his custody. Since then the demand includes the speculative manipulation of bond purchases with school money. The records in the bond deals indicate that the school fund has been milked for several thousand dollars and the only officer who seems to be directly implicated is the treasurer, who so far has failed to give an explanation that would re-establish him in public confidence.

The suggestion that the vacant grounds at St. Mary's avenue and Harney street be set apart for a market house has stirred up a hornet's nest among the members of the Woman's club, who look upon the erection of a market house in the neighborhood of the public library building as a nuisance. In order to throw oil on troubled waters Mayor Moores addressed a letter to one of the leaders, in which he volunteered the assurance that it was but a remote possibility that there would be a market house anywhere, and in any event there would be little probability of its being located at Nineteenth and Harney. This epistle from the city hall evoked exclamations of surprise and distress and it was broadly hinted that someone had taken an unwarranted liberty in submitting to address the mayor on the subject. The next time Mayor Moores undertakes to address a communication to a member of the Woman's club he had better apply to the club for a permit.

Over \$18,000 in gold coin and sound currency is stored within the vault of the state treasury, but it is doubtful whether any enterprising burglar familiar with the handling of state funds under the present regime would take the trouble to undermine the vault or blow off its doors in the hope of securing anything for his labor. The chances are a thousand to one that the deposit, minus a few dimes and nickels, has been spirited away between two days and is now reposing in the coffers of one of the local banks.

The habit of straining at gnats and swallowing camels seems to have become chronic with the Board of Education. The latest illustration of this peculiarity was presented recently, when the board held two meetings in one night to dispose of the perplexing problem of closing down the heating of the new High school building or employing an extra man to attend to the furnace.

Lukban, the Filipino general who has been making practically all the trouble lately, finding himself cornered, intimated that he would like to negotiate for surrender, only to be informed there was no negotiation about it, but if he wanted to surrender all that was necessary was to come in. The Filipinos who desired to be conciliated had every opportunity and no good reason exists why special terms should now be offered those who have persisted in keeping up hostilities.

It is again announced that the deal for the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States has been consummated. The first thing the government should do on gaining possession should be to appropriately mark with buoys the location of the numerous heavy naval engagements reported from the Windward passage during the late war.

It will be months and perhaps years before the proposed plan of municipal consolidation will be in shape to materialize, and that, when it comes, the desire to bring about a reduction of local taxation will have to concentrate their influence upon a more economical administration of the affairs of the city, county and public schools.

Sure Sign of "Belfry Bats." A Michigan banker has run away, leaving a surplus for the depositors. The other missing bankers have probably decided unanimously that the poor man is crazy.

No Chance to Talk Back. Kansas City Journal. When the president removes the governor of a territory from office and shows by his own statements that the removal was just there is very little room left for argument.

Symptom of Pie Famine. Dues in the Democratic club of New York have been reduced from \$50 to \$25 since the election of Seth Low, a good indication that hard times have set in for the Tammany spoilsmen.

Reflections on the Profession. Kansas City Star. The unfortunate Iowa juror who blew out the gas and was found dead in his room was not really different from very many other state legislators who are selected to decide questions in the courts affecting the lives and property of litigants. The poor fellow simply got too dead.

Abertive and absurd as were some of the attempted moves in the caucus of democratic congressmen, they brought out the fact that the free silver movement within the party is deadlier than a coffin nail. There will not be another crop of financial heretics until hard times and consequent discontent favors their appearance.

Jersey Product Glorified. New York Tribune. Having gained scientific medical recognition as purveyor of malaria and yellow fever, the mosquito is now asserted to be a curative agent in cancer, which at once lifts the celebrity of the insect above peers, giving it a claim to medical and public attention which it never had before. Its pretensions will, of course, be carefully examined, but its fine old standing as a phlebotomist is at any rate secure.

Education in the Philippines. Chicago Journal. The statements in Secretary Root's report regarding the anxiety of the Filipinos for English education are very interesting. With 75,000 children in actual daily attendance at schools and as many more waiting for school rooms, the financial straits attending night schools in Manila and with many towns arranging to send boys to the United States to be educated at public expense, those who have charge of the educational work in the islands have every reason to be encouraged.

An Instructive Showing. Indianapolis Journal. Among the various interesting features in the government department reports, this month's report of the secretary of agriculture is particularly noteworthy. The remarkable showing in regard to rural free delivery. No other undertaking of the government has ever proved so successful in a comparatively short time or so productive of unexpected benefits. The facts and figures presented by the postmaster general are conclusive and the public will heartily endorse his statement that "a service which has within three years wrought such a great improvement in the conditions of rural life cannot be halted. It must go on until it shall be fully completed."

A Toast for All. Rude Discrimination at New York's Banquet Board. Springfield (Mass.) Republican. The toast to King Edward of Great Britain, which was proposed and drunk at the annual banquet of the New York Chamber of Commerce the other evening, was a pleasant courtesy to a great nation over the sea. "Here's to your health and prosperity," the little convivial ceremony said to the British people. The idea was excellent. But why should the other great nations have been ignored? Unless our conception of the toast be wide of the mark, there was equal reason for proposing the health of the president of France, the czar of Russia and the emperor of Germany. It was a banquet which was given by the American secretary of state, and all the more on that account was it desirable not to draw distinctions between nations. The secretary's speech was notable for its friendliness to foreign countries, without setting up preferences among any particular nation. The reasonable taste of drinking the health of but one foreign ruler, under such conditions, must be obvious to all.

There is certainly no country with whom it is more desirable to cultivate friendly relations than with Germany, and there is no other country to which the New York Chamber of Commerce could with greater propriety have paid the compliment of a toast. For the German commerce of the port of New York is an enormous factor in the commerce of the world. The portion of the population of New York which is German or of German descent exercises a very great influence in the city's politics and financial life. From Carl Schurz to Mr. Guggenheimer, from Germany to New York played a conspicuous part. France, too, is a country with which America has every reason to cultivate friendly relations. After all, the French are the great hope of republicanism in Europe, while the German empire, with the port of New York is no inconsiderable asset of New York's prosperity. And Russia may well be the recipient of an American's courtesies. The nation of the czar, in returning from Alaska, voluntarily left America the service of renouncing its position as a power of the western hemisphere. The future of northern Asia, however, will be to a large degree the future of Russia, and two great Pacific powers, one of which controls San Francisco and the other Port Arthur, ought to deserve the amenities of international intercourse. Other powers, too—Italy, Japan, even Spain—might well be the recipients of American good wishes. Yet the rulers of none of these nations, the New York Chamber of Commerce drink a toast.

PREVENTING PUBLICITY.

The Silent Joker in the Northern Securities Charter. Brooklyn Eagle. The contest for the control of the railroads in the northwest has ended in the formation of a stock-owning corporation with a capital stock of \$400,000,000. It is a banking concern, something like the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company. The directors of the new corporation, to be called the Northern Securities company, will give its stock in exchange for the stock of the various railroads entering into the combination, and its directors, through its control, will control the railroads. This plan has been adopted to get around the anti-trust laws. Business will be done in its own way and in big corporations or little ones it is practically impossible to frame a statute which will interfere with this law of trade.

But it is possible to frame a statute which will prevent the granting of any franchise or charter to any corporation containing such a provision as appears in the charter of this new company. According to the Associated Press summary of that document, it gives to the directors power to "determine from time to time, where, when and how the books of the company shall be open to the stockholders." This really puts the control of the railroads involved in the hands of the directors and there need not be more than three of them. No stockholder may know anything about the conduct of the business save as those men are willing to let him. While there is a growing demand for publicity, we have here the formation of a corporation whose managers are seeking to prevent the public from knowing anything about the conduct of the business.

The revised official report of the Pan-American exposition puts the total attendance at \$1,294,945-3,306,359 paid and 2,815,189 free.

Buffalo intimates that \$500,000 from an overflowing national treasury would be a welcome, soothing poultice for its painful deficit.

The real "melancholy days" of winter do not begin when congress assemblies. When state legislatures get into action marks the beginning of national "blues."

The new recorder of Pittsburgh is Brown, and his chief clerk is Black. They are not calculated to lend a cheerful hue to the politics of that much abused municipality.

The Cairo (Egypt) Sphinx gives it out cold that if J. Pierpont Morgan attempts to reorganize the pyramids and move them to his backyard on wheels and give it the hardest he ever went against, And the Sphinx winked its good eye.

They do things a shade differently in California. Instead of following the Omaha plan of cremating pest houses, the ingenious suburbanites of Bakersfield put the local pest house on wheels and gave it a toboggan push down the mountainside.

Conscience funds are growing nicely. A contribution of \$18,669 was received in Washington lately and Chicago's treasury was fattened by \$28,000 a month ago. If every individual who has "done" the government, local or national, would cough up in like manner all taxes could be abolished for a year or two.

It should not be forgotten that the honor of bringing the franchised corporations of Chicago to their knees belongs to two young ladies, Miss Catherine Goggan and Miss Margaret Haley. These two were in the forefront of the fight to force the corporations to pay their share of public taxes and the victory secured is a splendid tribute to the "I will" qualities of Chicago women.

The Miller syndicate swindle of Brooklyn, which scooped in at least \$1,000,000 on an offer to pay depositors 10 per cent a week, is clearly outclassed by the operations of C. E. Mackey & Co., New York brokers. They offered 100 per cent per annum, gathered in \$4,700,000 and went the way of the wrecked, leaving about \$200,000 for lawyers and receivers to fight over.

The late Mr. Barnum's remark about "a sucker is born every minute" should be revised and amended to fit the east.

"Red Oak from little acorns grow," sang the bard of the Nishanabota as he attuned his lute to the merry murmurs of that famous stream. His words contained more truth than sentiment, more sound timber with the bark on than the sweet sugar realized in his inspired moments. A handsome brochure issued by the Red Oak Express corroborates these claims. The book is handsome in design and finish. It pictures the homes and home life of the town, its business activities and industrial progress, and supplements its pictorial charms with a succinct account of the town's birth, its progress, its present commanding strength and the charms of its social life. It is not surprising to learn that the residents are proud of the map, regarding it as the only one of the map-making kind put out by Red Oak. It contains a magnifying glass to find others. With only forty-four years behind it, centuries before it, 5,000 sturdy Red Oakers in the present forest and only fifty miles from Omaha, the glowing hopes of the town-people are certain to be realized. The clever and artistic brochure hastens the day.

IS HE WILLING TO TAKE ANYTHING?

Speculations on the Political Future of "The Peerless Leader." Baltimore American. The announcement is made on the authority of Senator Millard that Mr. William Jennings Bryan will receive the offer of the democratic nomination for governor of Nebraska next year and that he will accept. To this statement the senator adds his conviction that Bryan would be defeated, saying: "The attempt to revive the old-line democratic party in Nebraska has failed and the democratic organization will be the Bryan organization. Bryan will depend upon his personal popularity to land him in the governor's chair, but I believe he cannot win."

That Bryan should be willing to run for governor of Nebraska will not surprise those who have studied his political career or who have reached a full appreciation of his inordinate desire to hold office. His two disastrous failures in his races for the presidency do not seem to have convinced him that he can never sit in the White House and it is undoubtedly his idea that by keeping himself before the people of Nebraska as a political leader he can keep himself before the whole country in the same capacity. Though many of his old-time associates and backers have deserted him, yet he still has a certain hold on strong elements in his party. Though the national democracy would like to rid itself of Bryan and Bryanism, it has not yet been bold enough to come out boldly, confess its errors and utterly repudiate him and his doctrines. Unless there is a very decided change before 1904 it will still have Bryan to count with when it comes to making its nomination to the presidency.

The present governor of Nebraska is a republican, elected last year over a candidate supported by both democrats and populists. In the election this month the republicans carried the state by about 10,000 majority. When Bryan first shot across the political sky like a brilliant meteor, in 1896, he won in his own state by about 15,000 votes, but in 1900 McKinley took Nebraska by nearly 8,000 votes. Bryan has since then depended so largely for his support, had then begun to die out and it has continued to die ever since. It is generally believed in the east that Bryan's Commoner, started for the perpetuation and continued agitation of his political theories, has been as dead a failure as his national campaign. He gives credence to the report that he would be willing to take the nomination for governor. He finds himself in the position of a man by whom small favors will be thankfully received and large ones in proportion.

TICKLISH TALK. Detroit Free Press: "I am told that you have been hunting, Bellingham."

"I have, Bellingham."

"Had anything?"

"My trousers."

Philadelphia Press: "What a scornful expression Miss Nutch has."

"Yes, but she really can't help it. She has resided during the greater portion of her life near a dye factory."

Yonkers Statesman: Mrs. Crimmonbeck—And you say she's an unreasonable woman?"

"Mr. Crimmonbeck—is she? Why, if she went to the Stock Exchange she'd expect some of the men to get up and give her their \$50,000 seats."

Chicago Tribune: "And what are you making?"

"I'm making the play of his brawny muscles," replied the play's manager. "I'm making cowcatchers for milk trains," he replied, without looking up from his work.

Whereas we passed on, marveling greatly at the intricacies of modern science, Washington Star: "I guess that boy of yours will make his mark in the world," said the mother.

"Yes, answered the father. "Judging by the way he has been skinned against the world in various foot ball games I should say he has already put a few dents into it."

Detroit Free Press: "An indefinable sense of danger or of something dreadful about to happen is pursuing me," said the doctoree.

"O, you're all right," replied Spats. "The way he has been skinned against the world will be repeated this winter. Cheer up."

Philadelphia Press: "Wouldn't we be surprised if we could see ourselves as others see us?"

"Yes, but the others would be surprised, too, if they could see us as we see ourselves."

Chicago Tribune: Winifred—I thought Uncle Gotz acted awfully when he took dinner at our house today."

Gregory—What did he do?"

Winifred—He tasted the victuals on his plate and then I saw him pinch himself and heard him mutter, "It's a free! They're real potatoes!"

LOVE'S COMPANY. Grace E. Cobb in Boston Transcript. The heart that loves, if absent from its own, Though all the world around, is yet alone; Naught makes the touch of high and sweet surprise; Like love-light shining from beloved eyes, Say not to Love, "I should be a second best. Find comfort here, and thus thou shalt be blessed. With far-off gaze into the eternal skies, "Tis not mine own, but his, who's voice replies. He, lofty solitude, no lesser gift Hath power to touch, imperious and swift He spurs the offered substitute, his own. Tendrils, which his way have made must bend; Though round him cluster faces passing fair, Eyes, which like a mesh of silken hair, Love doth behold all charms of featured disdain. Epitomized in one beloved face, With care indifferent, from ardent lay of voice half-diverted, his heart away, But lightest word of his beloved's seems to strike the map put out by Red Oak. Should strong pass by with looks of cold disdain. Love needs them not; nor have they power to pain. The heart that loves is never more alone, Once it has found and recognized its own; But separated from his chosen friend, Alone to silent way have needs must bend; Only in heaven's elected one can he Best satisfied in perfect company."

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