THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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1	29,120	16	28,930
2	29,270	17	28,910
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5	29,550	20	26,445
6	26,795	21	28,880
7	29,320	22	28,880
8	29,370	23	28,530
9	29,290	24	28,730
10	29,150	25	28,720
11	29,220	26	29,205
12	29,310	27	27,240
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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30th day of September, A. D. 1903.
M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal.) Notary Public.

Ak-Sar-Ben IX outshines them all.

Better than a gold mine—the confetti privilege at Ak-Sar-Ben's street fair.

Ak-Sar-Ben can console himself that he is not the first monarch to be goldbricked.

Mayor Moores is entitled to a royal commission as the official humorist of Ak-Sar-Ben's realm.

Where Judge Vinsonhaler made his mistake was in issuing a challenge for the production of a document that he thought had been lost.

The only way to characterize the condition of municipal politics in Greater New York in a single phrase is to say that it is "decidedly muddled."

From the tenacity of the czar in holding on to Manchuria one might draw the inference that there is no Moving day in the Russian calendar.

The vandal who cut the British flag to ribbons in the City Hall park at New York doubtless thought the colors would be more effective in ribbon form.

The woman suffragists have been discussing what they should ask from the next Nebraska legislature. Our advice would be to ask for considerably more than they expect to get.

Isn't it a trifle inconsistent for a Nebraska World's fair commissioner to be booming Nebraska's resources at St. Louis and at the same time planting colonies up in Canadian Winnipeg?

The orderly character of the street crowds in attendance on the carnival deserves at least passing attention. In no other large city could the people congregate in such numbers and behave themselves better.

Arguments on the Alaskan boundary dispute have been concluded before the arbitration commission. If it takes as long for the commissioners to ruminate as it did for the counsel to orate, we need be in no hurry to look for the announcement of the decision.

That the managers of the St. Louis exposition have money to burn is again strikingly illustrated by the announcement that 35,000 Dutch tulip bulbs have been imported from Holland at a cost of $35,000 for the horticultural exhibit on the exposition grounds. At $1 apiece these bulbs are dog cheap. Two hundred years ago, during the historic tulip mania, they would have found a ready market in Holland at from $50 to $500 apiece.

The World-Herald is very much wrought up over that Vinsonhaler pledge, but not a word about the Vinsonhaler graft by farming out of trust funds for private gain, or the retention of fees which by law are required to be turned over into the county treasury. This is perfectly natural, however, as the editor of the fusion reform organ has since his birth been afflicted with a cataract that has blinded his eyes to the misdeeds of public treasury embezzlers and speculators in trust funds.

Those Kansas City Commercial convention resolutions demanding congressional action to prevent the recurrence of floods in Kansas and Missouri smack altogether too much of paternalism and foreshadow another raid on the national treasury through the wide-open channel of the river and harbor bill. That impression would seem to be strengthened by the fact that the chairman of the senate committee on rivers and harbors was an active participant in the convention. If the senate was blessed with a cyclone and drouth committee the convention might also have added a resolution in favor of congressional appropriation for rain making and cyclone smashing.

THE BOUNDARY CONTROVERSY.

The arguments before the Alaskan Boundary commission having closed, a decision may be expected within a short time, as doubtless the members of the commission have already made up their minds in regard to the question involved. The discussion was not marked by any specially noteworthy incident, but it was very thorough, the American counsel winning great credit for the very able manner in which they presented their case. No prediction regarding the decision can have any value, but it seems to be the quite general impression in Canada that it will be adverse to the contention of that country, the belief being that Lord Alverstone, chairman of the commission, will support the American position. He has certainly shown a very great interest in the arguments of the counsel for the United States, complimenting two of them, but this may have been simply courtesy and without any significance in respect to his opinion of the real merits of the controversy.

Referring to the dissatisfaction in Canada with the way things have been going before the Alaska tribunal, the New York Journal of Commerce expresses apprehension that in the event of a decision wholly favorable to the United States the effect may be to aggravate feeling in Canada against this country and thereby make more difficult the attainment of closer trade relations. It says: "Should the Alaska tribunal render a verdict recognized as fair on both sides of the line, the prospect not merely of satisfactory reciprocity negotiations, but of ratification of a treaty embodying their results, will be much brighter. Should it, on the other hand, justify present suspicions by returning an extreme verdict in favor of the United States, disregarding what fair-minded Canadians consider their just claims, the breach between our neighbor and ourselves will be widened and the prospects of reciprocity be impaired."

It is not complimentary to the Canadians to assume that they will resent a decision against them, after having been given the fullest opportunity to present their case to a tribunal the high character and ability of which will not be questioned, but in any event the reciprocity question will not be affected. That is not at present receiving any serious attention in the Dominion and a leading paper there recently declared that there is very little popular sentiment in favor of reciprocity with the United States. There is a strong and undoubtedly growing feeling in Canada favorable to the Chamberlain policy, which has just been publicly approved by a former premier, Sir Charles Tupper, who is perhaps the most influential of the conservative leaders. While such ardent advocates of reciprocity in this country as the Journal of Commerce continue to urge it, the Canadians are ignoring the subject and turning their attention to the policy of Mr. Chamberlain, which appeals to the imperialist sentiment of a very large majority of them. Whatever, therefore, the decision of the boundary tribunal may be, it will not have the slightest influence upon the question of trade relations between Canada and the United States.

THE TREATY WITH CHINA.

The signing of a new commercial treaty between this country and China, as to which there has been no little anxiety for a considerable time, due chiefly to Russian interference, is a matter of considerable interest and importance in its bearing upon the future trade relations between the two countries. By the terms of this convention, the final ratification of which may be assumed to be assured, the United States secures some valuable concessions, among them the opening of new ports and the right to carry on trade, industries and manufactures in all parts of China.

While there may not be immediately shown any very marked results from these concessions, it may confidently be anticipated that at no very remote time American trade will begin to realize a material benefit from them. Our government has been especially urgent in asking the opening of two ports in Manchuria and the fact that it has been able to overcome in this matter the objection of Russia is a victory of a very decisive character. It is perhaps needless to say that in this our government has not labored selfishly, but in the interest of all the commercial nations. We have obtained in this no special privilege or opportunity, for in the opening of the new ports every other country will be given an equal chance with ourselves to secure Manchurian trade. In some other respects the treaty of course contains special concessions to this country, these being of a character, however, which does not in the least discriminate against any other country. The policy of our government in the negotiations has been to ask for nothing that was not entirely fair and just and in the interest of stronger ties of friendship between the two countries, and its success against somewhat formidable obstacles is highly gratifying.

There seems now to be nothing whatsoever in the way of the ratification of this treaty. That it will be accepted by the United States senate may be regarded as certain and it appears equally safe to say that it will encounter no opposition elsewhere. The only obstructive power was Russia and she some time since was made to see the mistake of that position and abandoned it. There is no doubt that the convention will be beneficial to both countries. It will bring about closer relations and strengthen the sentiment of friendship between China and the United States. The Chinese government has been given in the last few years abundant reason for believing that this republic is sincerely friendly to China; that the United States earnestly desires the preservation of the territorial integrity of that great empire and may be depended upon to always exert its influence to that end. The treaty just signed will more firmly bind this country to its already declared policy and give China a much stronger claim to American good will and support in any future efforts it may be called upon to make in order to safeguard its territorital integrity against foreign schemes of aggrandizement.

THE MISSOURI AS A HIGHWAY OF COMMERCE.

Among the resolutions adopted by the commercial convention that has just closed an interesting session at Kansas City is the following:

Resolved, That the Missouri river is one of the natural highways of commerce and that the congress of the United States should enact such special legislation as it shall deem necessary to protect and preserve the channel of said river for the people as a highway.

The declaration that the Missouri river is a highway of commerce is preposterous. The Missouri river extends from Fort Benton, Mont., to St. Louis, a distance of more than 3,000 miles, but it has ceased to be a highway of commerce ever since the advent of the railroad. To make it a permanent highway of commerce would involve an expenditure of as much or more money than the building of the Isthmian canal and when it is fitted for a highway of commerce it could only be utilized during the summer months, when there is no grain and very little else to move either up or down the river.

The only rational improvement of the Missouri river congress could and should provide for is the protection of the river banks adjacent to the towns and cities that are liable to great damage by high water, or may be cut off from the river altogether by change of channel.

There is no doubt, however, that a barge line to carry the products of the Missouri valley to tidewater would be of incalculable advantage to the region traversed by the Missouri river. Such a barge line from the upper Missouri to St. Louis operated all the year around is now practicable by the use of electricity. If congress can be induced to vote $40,000,000 or $50,000,000 for pulling up snags, building ripraps and deepening channels and straightening the Missouri river, it could with an expenditure of many millions less construct a barge line, modeled after the Eads Ship railway. With power houses located at proper distances and motors operating a trolley system to move the barges up or down the river to a point where they could be towed all the year round down the Mississippi to New Orleans and back, the cheap transportation problem for the great grain-raising region of Missouri, Kansas, western Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas would be solved.

The suggestion that Omaha is very much in need of large warehouse buildings to accommodate the increasing jobbing trade is taken up in all seriousness by a paper whose editor is noted for building castles in Spain and chicken-coops in Omaha. Practical business men doubtless realize that the owners of real estate located in the jobbing district will cheerfully build the warehouses just as soon as they can see their way clear to secure fair interest on the money invested. For several years past business block rentals in Omaha have not kept pace with the increased cost of material and labor and consequently the people who had money for permanent investment were not disposed to plant it in buildings whose rental frequently did not exceed the taxes, insurance and cost of ordinary repairs, leaving out of consideration the depreciation caused by wear and tear.

One of the populist organs tries to make out that Judge Barnes enjoys no distinction in having been twice appointed member of the supreme court commission by unanimous vote of the three supreme judges, Judge Sullivan being one of them. But all of the supreme court commissioners have not had reappointments when their terms expired. If Judge Barnes were not the right man for the place, it would not have required more than ordinary courage for Judge Sullivan to have interposed a veto against his retention. But we have Judge Sullivan's word that his opponent is in every way qualified for performing the judicial functions devolving upon members of the supreme court, so why go behind that?

The Standard Oil trust, which distributed nearly $25,000,000 in dividends among its stockholders within the past nine months, has ordained an advance in the price of coal oil, which will squeeze another million or two out of its patrons, and the meat packers' combine has ordained a reduction in the price of hogs that will reduce the income of American farmers several hundred thousand dollars, but anybody who calls public attention to this exhibit of corporate porkishness is sure to be branded as a "knocker."

Ex-Councilman Hascall read a paper before the National Association of Municipal Reformers on the vital points in municipal government. Mr. Hascall's extensive experience would doubtless suggest that the most vital point in municipal government is to keep a sharp lookout for court bailiffs bearing injunction papers and court orders to restrain the council from doing malicious mischief and to keep the council chamber doors closed against taxpayers who insist upon the fair equalization of municipal assessments.

It will always remain a mystery why ex-Councilman Hascall should have traveled 2,500 miles, from Omaha to Baltimore and back, to read a paper on municipal reform at a cost to the city of $100, when he could just as well have had that paper read at the expense of a 2-cent postage stamp.

Who Are the Dancers?

St. Louis Globe-Democrt.

Nobody but the millionaire is taking any interest in the Wall street stock speculations. While the rich men are paying the fiddler, the outsiders can patiently enjoy the music.

Manifestly a Wrong Impression.

Washington Star.

The receiver for the United States Shipbuilding company charges Charles M. Schwab with having fraudulently unloaded a $10,000,000 plant on the trust for $30,000,000. Still there are some persons who imagine that Mr. Schwab has paresis.

Effect of Diffused Prosperity.

New York World.

"Prosperity," says the bulletin of the State Department of Labor, "is so widely diffused that the servant keeping class is larger than ever before and has thus created a demand that exceeds the supply." It will be comforting to the ladies who get together and groan over their "help" to know just what the trouble is.

Relief for the Pinched.

Buffalo Express.

The United States Steel corporation offers to buy back from its employes at the price they paid for it any stock bought by them under the offer made last winter, provided the stock is held until January, 1908. The offer probably will allay the anxiety of employes, but the experiment of the corporation in taking its men into partnership is not likely to find many imitators.

Knocking the Consumer.

Detroit Free Press.

Sixty thousand employes of the anthracite coal companies are now working little more than half time, in order to restrict the output and keep up prices. It is estimated that by November 1 the normal production will have been restricted 1,200,000 tons. The men will lose $1,000,000 in wages and the public will pay top-notch prices for coal. This reminds us that the consumer is still "It."

Sanctity of Seed Bureau Assailed.

Philadelphia Record.

As a pendant to the investigation of the postal scandals there has been going on an inquiry by the Department of Justice into alleged official irregularities in the delivery of garden seeds to the Department of Agriculture. Some of these "irregularities," to put it mildly, are said to consist in the substitution of cheap and worthless seeds for the more rare and costly varieties. In some instances the seeds have obstinately refused to germinate under the most careful culture, and in others they have surprised the gardener by yielding plants and flowers quite different from those described by the labels.

"Where Every Prospect Pleases."

Saturday Evening Post.

Again immigration is flooding in upon us from all parts of Europe. From the Arctic circle to the Mediterranean, Europeans of all languages, races and nations are flocking toward America as never before. Why? Because the whole world is full of the noise of the prosperity of the common man in America—his political and mental prosperity as well as the material prosperity. And every man who toils in Europe and finds the products of his toil swept into the coffers of king or noble is dreaming of the land where there is no king and no noble, where rich and poor toil alike, where labor is not disgrace, but the essence and vital qualification of honor. And just there is our country's glory.

Halt in Wireless Telegraphy.

New York Tribune.

Marconi received a wireless message on board Philadelphia from Poldhu, at a distance of more than 1,500 miles, about twenty months ago, and succeeded last winter in transmitting several more from Cape Breton to England. So far as the feasibility of transatlantic communication with Hertz waves is concerned, therefore, there can be no question. Between a scientific posibility and a commercial proposition, however, Marconi seems to have observed several points of difference, and he has devoted six or eight months to studying how best to get rid of them. From the prudent reserve which he is still manifests concerning the tests recently and now in progress, the public cannot yet judge of the value of his latest improvements.

EXTINCT AS THE DODO.

Another Conventional Fiction Placed on the Shelf.

Chicago Chronicle.

One by one the old conventional fictions are being demolished, and among the last to go is that of the rural visitor who always comes to grief when he visits the city.

The woes of this traditional individual have long furnished material for the comic illustrators and the humorous paragraphers. His purchases of gold bricks, his investments in green goods, his excursions to the lake front or to the tunnels to view disasters in those localities have excited the risibilities of the urban resident for a long time.

Like the stage Irishman and his colleague the "Dutchman" of the drama, however, it is now quite clear that the "hayseed" of the funny papers is a creature of the imagination rather than an actual type. He may have been more or less verdant and unsophisticated once, but he is so no longer. The rural resident of the middle west, at any rate, is at no disadvantage whatever as compared with the dweller in the city. If the "jay" of tradition ever had an existence he has vanished from this vicinity.

This has been quite evident during the centennial celebration. Many thousands of people from out of town have visited the city, and it has been no easy matter for Chicagoans to distinguish them from the regular residents of the city. They dress as well and they conduct themselves as well. They do not stand in the middle of the street gazing up at the high buildings. They do not carry shiny carpet sacks nor do they interlard their discourse with "B'gosh!" and "By hen!" as the comic papers assert. They are, in short, intelligent, well-mannered Americans who have nothing to fear by comparison with their city cousins in the matter of intelligence and who have distinctly the better of it in manners and courtesy.

It is possible that in remote and thinly settled districts of the west there may still exist people who justify the conceits of the comic artists, but there are no such people in the territory circumjacent to Chicago. There is no reason why there should be.

The rural resident of today has a telephone and rural mail delivery; he takes a daily newspaper—perhaps more than one—and half a dozen magazines. He is probably better informed on current topics than is the average city dweller because he has more time to devote to acquiring information. At any rate he is nobody's fool, and the man who picks him up with such an idea is going to find his mistake very quickly.

The "easy mark" from the country has gone forever, if, indeed, he existed at all. The confidence man of today seeks his victims not in the rural districts, but among the tenants of sky scrapers who have a fancy for Consolidated Lake Superior and similar investments.

The "jay," like the dodo, is extinct.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

General Shafter is talked of for mayor of San Francisco. The town is weary of lightweights.

Tammany's candidate for mayor is to make campaign speeches in four languages and shake with both hands.

David Bennett Hill is shrewd enough to refrain from cutting into the political conversation in New York City.

How happy the indicted postal officials would be if their troubles were subject to review by the Missouri supreme court.

With congress soon to meet and a score of state legislatures to follow it seems superfluous to organize a $3,000,000 talking machine trust.

"Golden Rule" Jones of Toledo says "ringing up fares in a street car is degrading to the soul." Doubtless the mayor flashes a pass to save the conductor's feelings.

Republican spellbinders need not bother about home made protection statistics next year. Great Britian's free trade relapse furnishes an abundance of the real thing.

Preliminary music of the New York City campaign promise a spirited concert when the musicians are thoroughly tuned up. It will make the concert of Europe sound like Hiawatha on a barrel organ.

Governor Richard Yates of Illinois has formally announced his candidacy for reelection in a speech before the Morgan county republican convention, and the county convention adopted resolutions of indorsemet.

The Hon. Isidor Rayner, attorney general of Maryland and of Admiral Schley's counsel, has formally declared himself to be a candidate for the democratic nomination for United States senator before the next state legislature.

Optimistic democrats count on Connecticut coming back into the democratic column next year. The republicans carried 124 towns and the democrats thirty-seven at the local election last Monday. There isn't much in these figures to warrant democratic hopefulness.

There is some foundation for Mayor Harrison's assertion that graft prevails in Chicago politics. One energetic officeholder charged with the duty of chopping down weeds on the highways in town managed to put in a bill for $31,000 for three months' work. The uplift of Charley Schwab is threatened with eclipse.

IS IT A TURN OF THE TIDE?

Reasons Why the Question is Answered in the Negative.

Boston Transcript.

Discussion of the stock market outlook centers on the prospects of general business, more particularly on presumable demand for staple commodities next year. Conceding that the violence of extreme liquidation has passed, that the penalty for the 1901-1902 saturnalia of promoting, combining and exploiting of prosperity has been paid, the position simplifies to this: The decline in stocks in the last thirteen months represents a shrinkage in market or selling value of the public securities of the country so great as to extinguish fully two-thirds if not more of the extreme gain which followed the first election of President McKinley. That is, starting from a panic basis back in 1896, it is computed that security values advanced about $4,500,000 in the aggregate of their public market or selling value, while the reaction that began in September, 1902, and which has continued to date, means a shrinkage of fully $3,500,000.

Of course such an estimate is no better than an approximation, but anyone who keeps in touch with market movements knows that the decline of the last thirteen months have been as drastic as were the advances of the preceding four years. Now there is general consent that most of the interests in general business have been tided over, that the weak spots have been strengthened and that the market has overdone apprehension as much as it overdid booming. Some of the declines in prices of the most solid stocks have been remarkable and interest returns on investment at current prices compare notably with a year ago. There was much talk then of a 4 per cent basis of return on capital invested in railroad stocks and it even was predicted that a 3½ per cent rate was in prospect. Instead of a normal and healthful growth in values, Wall street went ahead and sought to realize in a few years—almost a few months—the full measure of improvement which should have been spread over a long period.

The result is familiar enough. The loans of the banks reached record totals, credit facilities were strained and now we have swung to the other extreme. Speculative energy is well-nigh extinguished and investment confidence has been prostrated Yet conditions, while by no means roseate in every way, present some favorable signs if one can get over the blues sufficiently to view the situation candidly. The decline, the forced liquidation, the "corners" in grain and cotton, the crop scare, the money pinch are past. We bid fair to have at least good, average crops; the railroads are maintaining good gains in earnings; there is evidence of returning reason in the settlement of labor difficulties and while general trade next year promises no boom a good volume of business generally seems to be in prospect. * * * We incline to the view that while no bull market in stocks is likely yet awhile, there is reasonable prospect of gradual increase in value of the shares when Wall street reajusts itself to actual conditions of the country. For the stock speculation has been out of joint with the country for a long while now; it ran ahead of prosperity for all of a year and now it has run behind it, apparently.

NO GUILTY MAN WILL ESCAPE.

Bunch of Postal Grafters Booked for Early Trial.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The determination of the government to deal out rigid and impartial justice in the postal irregularities is revealed in the action which has just been taken. Many indictments have been handed down by the District of Columbia grand jury, which has just finished its work. The names of the persons to be proceeded against include several who held important stations in the Postoffice department. They represent both political parties. The most prominent of these are General James N. Tyner, George W. Beavers, August W. Machen, W. Scott Towers, J. T. Metcalfe, Harrison J. Barrett, W. D. Doremus and Harry C. Hallenbeck. The names of most of these have been connected with the scandal since the beginning of the investigation. The charges include bribery, collusion in fraudulent "get-rich-quick" concerns and other forms of crookedness. As the investigation by the grand jury has apparently been thorough, a strong case has been obtained against most of the culprits.

There is a reason for felicitating the administration on the work which it has accomplished and the time of its completion. President Roosevelt and Postmaster General Payne have taken an active part in pushing the investigation. It was the president's desire that the matter should be got out of the way before congress met in December. In this purpose success has been attained. When congress meets in its regular session two months hence, it is safe to say that the trials of the indicted persons will have been concluded, and they will have received the pun'shment provided for their offenses.

THE OLD RELIABLE

Absolutely Pure

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The deadlock in Austria-Hungary may be fruitful in results for the future policy of the dual monarchy, and also in the greater question, rivalry between Teuton and Slav, which is the mainspring in all eastern European politics. Austria was absolutely dominant until 1866 and Sadowa. Then came Hungary's turn, and one of the greatest achievements of the Emperor Franz Josef was to know how to yield and what to yield to the Magyars. For the last decade Hungary has been ever more and more the predominant partner, presenting a solid front to the divided Austrian states. At the present juncture Austria, hard pressed, will be forced to enlist the support and sympathy of the Czechs and southern Slavs by considerable concessions, in order to use them as a counterpoise to Hungary. In this way the Czechs are likely to gain privileges they have long been fighting for, with a more definite recognition of their political importance and value. The result will be to place the balance of power in the hands of Bohemia, just as Ireland now holds the balance between the two great English parties. After Bohemia will come the turn of the southern Slavs of Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, Carinthia and Carinola, who for a generation have been growing stronger in national feeling and linguistic unity. Austria will thus become practically a Slavonic power, as it is, including Hungary, preponderatingly Slavonic already in population. The fitness of Austria to protect and develop the Slavonic populations in Macedonia, as she has already developed the Slavs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will thereby be enhanced; so that Hungary, in holding out at the present juncture against the Austrian kaiser, is playing directly into the hands of the Slavs, whom of all people she most cordially dislikes and despises.

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France has a new penitentiary at Fresnes, about eight miles from Paris, which is the largest in the world, and has accommodations for 2,000 criminals. The building, with the gardens and wardens' quarters, covers more than half a square mile, is situated in a healthy district, with large windows admitting freely the fresh air and sunshine, is provided with hot and shower baths, and every one of its spacious 2,000 cells is heated and lighted by electricity. The prisoners' food is abundant, they go to school, are allowed to work at trades, and to purchase any luxury but tobacco with the money thus earned, and everything possible is done to develop their better instincts. There is in Paris a society for lecturing in prisons, always ready to send lecturers wherever they may be wanted—a prominent theme with them being the evils of drunkenness. The prisoners are kept separate, can hold no communication with each other, and cannot recognize each other when released. In matters connected with the care and discipline of criminals as well as others, France gives token of the place which she holds in the world's civilization.

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The German War office authorities are just now discussing the ancient problem of the best color for soldiers' uniforms in actual campaigning. Some interesting notes on the subject are contained in an official report from an officer who commanded German troops in China. He says that it was often noticed during field exercises that the gray winter uniforms of the German troops could not be distinguished at long distances from the blue clothes of the Chinese, who were always present as spectators. In order to ascertain which color was the least distinguishable from the surrounding country a column was composed, the first section of which wore gray winter clothes, the second old blue short coats and black cloth trousers, the third khaki, the fourth overcoats and the fifth canvas. The column was placed in close formation behind bushes without foliage. At a distance of about 1,400 yards the gray and overcoat section appeared like uniform dark spots, while the khaki and canvas sections were hardly visible. Aiming at the last two was very difficult. On the five sections advancing in skirmishing order blue and gray could not be distinguished from one another. At a distance of 500 yards the gray began to look lighter than the dark blue. The gray overcoats made very good marks, the skirmishers appearing like long, dark stripes. Khaki and canvas both make difficult marks at all distances. The aiming at troops lying without cover on the ground was much easier when they carried all their accoutrements. The knapsacks and especially the black cooking pot looked like dark spots against the background and presented a very good target.

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English journals continue to print reports of revolutionary movements among the Russian peasantry in different provinces of the empire. In the district of Kieff many of the peasants have been in the habit of seeking employment during the winter in the towns and returning to the country for the summer months. The land-owners have lately been refusing employment to these summer immigrants, doing their harvesting work with the help of machinery and of laborers hired by the year. The peasants have been greatly irritated by this departure from old custom, and have not not only sent the land-owners threatening letters, but in many instances have set fire to country houses and farm buildings. Secret agitators have been busy, and in many estates the forests and the live stock have been destroyed. As a result the population is without employment. In the province of Saratoff government spies discovered revolutionary literature in the possession of certain peasants, and had them arrested and tried before the civil court on a charge of arson. The peasants were acquitted by the court, but were nevertheless detained in prison by order of the administrative authorities. A vigorous agitation has been started among the peasantry in Tula by means of private conversation and the distribution of revolutionary literature. The peasants are receptive and discuss the new doctrines in village and cantonal meetings. Revolutionary groups have been formed, and the effect produced by the agitation is such that the peasants of their own initiative are beginning to form libraries of useful literature. A recently formed League of Public School Teachers has issued a proclamation calling upon teachers throughout the empire to take advantage of their influential position in country districts to promote among the peasants a movement for political freedom and socialism.

FLASHES OF FUN.

"'Tain' no sure sign," said Uncle Eben, "dat a man loves his country because he gits mad in a political argument. He's liable to do de same thing over a hoss race."—Washington Star.

He—I have saved up enough for us to live at the rate of $10,0000 a year.
She—For how long?
"Oh, one year."—Brooklyn Life.

Mr. Highmore—What's the use of giving a garden party so late in the season? The evenings are too cool.
Mrs. Highmore—That's the reason I am going to give it. It's the easiest way I can pay off my party debts. Three-fourths of the people I invite won't come.—Philadelphia Press.

Patient—Doctor, what makes quinine start one's head to going round and round?
Doctor—Because it comes from Peru, which is one of those countries where revolution is in the very air.—Baltimore American.

Mrs. Chic—Your aunt Eustacia is now about 84, isn't she?
Miss Aplomb—Oh, don't ask me; auntie is awfully sensitive about her age.—Detroit Free Press.

"It's funny," said the sick man's wife, "but the doctor says he hasn't discovered yet what's the matter with you."
"Thank heaven!" exclaimed the sick man, "then I'm safe for a while yet."—Philadelphia Press.

"Her husband is a thousand times too good for her."
"Poor thing, she has my sympathy! I have the same sort of husband myself."—Town Topics.

"One would think," said the taxpayer to the city official, "that a fellow who was as anxious to get into that office as you were would be willing to stay there at least an hour a day."
That seemed to be logical, too, but sometimes it doesn't work out that way.—Chicago Post.

"I'm the dealer in pianos, ma'am," said the man at the door.
"But I don't want anything," replied the lady. "I have a piano."
"Yes'm; the man next door said he hoped I could induce you to sell it."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"I am sorry," said the earnest citizen, "to see the love of money exerting so much influence."
"Well," answered Senator Sorghum, "I'm sorry to hear you talk that way. When I hear a man grieving about the love of money I take it as a pretty good sign that he is suffering from unrequited affection."—Washington Star.

THE FELLER ON THE FENCE.

Roy Farrell Greene in Puck.

I like a man of courage, an' convictions
good an' strong,
Though his judgment may be hasty an'
his theories be wrong;
A man who'll come out boldly an' defend
with main an' might
A thing in controversy if he thinks the
thing is right.
I like t' measures words with one who'll
parry, guard, an' thrust,
Defendin' what he thinks is fair, an'
fightin' what's unjust.
He may hold views t' which my mind
most stubbornly dissents;
But I'm bound t' like him better than the
feller "on the fence."

The wishy-washy feller who when politics
or art
Are subjects of discussion never cares t'
take a part;
The man who when he's talkin' with his
dearest bosom friend
Will state not his opinions lest the statement may offend
Offends me more by silence an' by sitting
calm, inert,
Than he would by fightin' back a bit, my
views t' controvert,
An' it doesn't stand t' reason that a man
with common sense
Could feel much admiration for the feller
"on the fence."

The man's a moral coward who the topmost rail will choose
To perch on, wholly speechless, when you
charge on him with views.
A long-horned Texas bovine might there
drive me to a seat—
But I'll ne'er from controversy with a palsied tongue retreat!
An' so, a man of courage, an' conviction
good an' strong,
I'd choose, although his judgment an' his
theories be wrong,
His views be those t' which my mind most
stubbornly dissents—
I'm bound t' like him better than the feller
"on the fence."

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