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LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, NOVEMBER 25, 1894.

SPECIAL attention is called to the illustrated features of THE COURIER which we have lately adopted, and which we believe to be a most valuable addition. THE COURIER sketches are by Zim, Fithian, Newell, Lucas, Sheppard, David, Chip, Daggy, Richards, Goodes, Rahn, Eudd, Griffin, Douglas, Boyd, Johnson, Hick-Este, Cooper and others, this list including, as our readers will observe, the best known comic illustrators in the country. These artists who are illustrating for THE COURIER are the same who do most of the work for Puck and papers of that class, and their services are secured by us at a very heavy expense, deserving, we believe, of cordial appreciation.

PURSUANT to custom next Thursday, the Twenty-ninth of November, will be observed throughout the country as a day of Thanksgiving. A year ago when the proclamation of the president of the United States and those of the governors, were issued, it seemed, to some, almost like a mockery to appoint a day of Thanksgiving when at least two million working people were out of employment, and when distress was generally prevalent, and at this time doubtless the same thought occurs to many. There may be said to be some substantial improvement in the condition of the people since last November; but the hard times still oppress us; thousands of men, women and children are homeless—wanderers on the face of the earth, hungry and well nigh naked; it is still difficult to obtain employment, and there is much suffering on every hand. And the misery is not all confined to those who have hitherto been known as the poor. The last twelve months have sent poverty into many a household where, formerly, there was plenty. Few have entirely escaped. But withal, there is much to be thankful for, and this great national holiday will be a suitable opportunity for those who have an abundance to make glad the hearts of the suffering whom, in times like these, we do not have to seek. It is not hard to find something to be thankful for, and, with so many in need, it ought to be easy to manifest our thankfulness in some tangible way that will cause a widening of Thanksgiving praise.

THE principle laid down in Judge Brewer's decision declaring the maximum freight rate law inoperative, is susceptible of illustrations that do not reflect any particular credit on the wisdom or justice of this most remarkable finding, a decision quite as unique and grotesque, it seems to us, as the letter of Mayor Weiß approving the street railway ordinance on the ground that the republican party was successful in the late election. Judge Brewer made tacit admission of the fact that the existing charges for freight in this state are excessive; but he maintained that a reduction such as imposed in the maximum rate law is unjust and unreasonable to those who have their money invested in railroad property in this state, admitting

further, that these companies have been fictitiously or fraudulently capitalized. In another article on this subject the editor of THE COURIER illustrated this idea that the common people must be compelled by law to assist a certain class of investors in earning interest on their money, regardless of the rights of the former—robbing Peter to pay Paul in fact, as follows: "This maximum freight rate law which Judge Brewer now annuls is exactly paralleled on the statute books of Nebraska by a law fixing the maximum rate of interest on money, known commonly as the usury law. Suppose A should go to the town of Alliance and start a bank and actually spend \$500,000 in the erection of a magnificent bank building, and then open up business with a cash capital of \$100,000, a part of which he must keep in reserve. There are no deposits to speak of, and in order to get a return on his investment of \$600,000 he is compelled to charge 85 per cent. interest on the \$75,000 which he loans. After awhile one of the borrowers objects and goes into court and asks that the bank be restrained from charging him more than 10 per cent., the maximum rate prescribed by law. The banker replies: "That law is inoperative. Judge Brewer has settled that point. I have invested \$600,000 in my bank, and law or no law, I must be protected. You must pay me 85 per cent. because I have to have that amount to give a fair return on my capital. If I have expended my money foolishly or extravagantly that doesn't make any difference to you. You've got to pay me interest on it just the same. The usury law is inoperative in my case." Mr. Bryan, in the *World-Herald*, says: "If a man buys a farm for \$10,000 and gives two mortgages upon it, a first mortgage for \$5,000 and a second mortgage for \$2,500, and the price of agricultural products falls to such an extent that the income from the farm will only pay interest on \$5,000, after paying running expenses; in such case the second mortgagee loses his interest and the owner loses his profit on the investment of \$2,500—the difference between the sum of the mortgages and the price paid for the land. The law does not protect the farmer from the effects of falling prices, nor does it guarantee the second mortgagee against the loss of his entire loan, if falling prices reduce the land to a point where it is only worth the amount of the first mortgage." There is no limit to the number of applications of this sort that can be made of the principle that is the essence of Judge Brewer's decision. The maximum freight rate law may contain some very unjust provisions—we are not arguing on the merits of the law, but this decision of the federal court, the more it is considered, gathers in ridiculousness, and we believe it will take its place in history as one of the greatest judicial outrages ever perpetrated in this country.

THAT CONFIDENT AIR.

"He doesn't behave as if he belonged to the best society," said one young woman.

"No," replied the other; "he behaves as if the best society belonged to him."

PLAINTIVE.

"A human life," said the sentimental young man, "is a poem—tragic, comic, sentimental, as the case may be."

"Yes," sighed Miss Passeigh, "and so many of us are rejected manuscripts."

DEAR PUBLIC: Whether I am scratching the epidermis of a republican or pricking the cuticle of a democrat, the vascular system of the genius will quicken under the irritant:—that the swing of the political pendulum from '886 and 88 to 1890 and 92, and back to 1894 and 96(?) is ample evidence that the American people are capable of selecting their governments. As for their diamonds, watches and jewelry. In marking prices we are governed by actual values. Correct styles. Want to trade on that basis. Darkest Africa yields to the world the rarest of diamonds. Are you an admirer of beautiful first water diamonds? I display a splendid show of the finest stones set in the latest styles of finger rings, studs, pins, etc. Would like to sell you a pretty one. I only repeat what we hear every day, that is, that our stock is simply incomparable. Prices always right. E. Hallett, jeweler and optician, 1143 O street.