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SARAH P. HARRIS, Editor
DORA BACHELLER, Business Manager

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OBSERVATIONS.

The eastern mails are delayed at Chicago, one for six hours and one for nine hours in order to accommodate four Chicago newspapers. The Omaha *World-Herald* complains that such discrimination is unjust and unbusiness like, and the latter paper hath its quarrel just. That the earlier arrival of the Chicago papers has cut into the business of the Nebraska dailies is not to the point, though it may be the reason why the *Bee*'s and the *World-Herald*'s sense of justice has been aroused to vigorous resistance. Notwithstanding this, the holding back of the two through, fast mails at Chicago for six and nine hours respectively, until the Chicago presses have accomplished their daily labor, is an injustice to all the country west of Chicago which has any business east of Chicago. The Omaha papers are fighting the cause of the whole west—Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, the Pacific states, and even the whole of Illinois west of Chicago, against four newspapers in Chicago. The *Journal* in refusing to join with the Omaha papers in an attempt to right a wrong is deserting the cause of the state and the west because more powerful and more successful rivals are the first champions of a most righteous cause. THE COURIER, though a humble neighbor and in another field, takes pleasure in recognizing and applauding truth and justice which are certainly on the side of the *World-Herald* and the *Bee*. The following from Sunday's *World-Herald*, is

in reply to recent editorials in the *Journal* accusing the *World-Herald* of selfishness.

The *Journal* judges other newspapers by its own standard. The movement to secure better mail service for Omaha and other western cities originated from no such selfish motives as the *Journal* insinuates. It was originated by the business men of this and other places. The *World-Herald*, true to its mission as the advocate of the business men of Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and the west, ranged itself on the side of the commercial interests of the country. The small advantage, if any, insuring to the newspapers of a community is a bagatelle to the great benefit to the country between the Atlantic and Pacific by the betterment of the fast mail service.

Suppose the western newspapers may be directly or indirectly benefitted by bringing the so-called fast mail train to the Missouri river at 8 a. m. and to Denver and Cheyenne at 9 o'clock the following night by operating the train as it should be, when did it become a crime for a western newspaper to receive a benefit from the postoffice department by having the mails run on business principles?

As four Chicago morning papers are exclusively benefitted by having the alleged fast mail train manipulated in their interests, regardless of the interests of all other enterprises, the charge of selfishness will not hold good against the Omaha papers. In demanding that the fast mail train be made what it purports to be and what the people are paying for—a fast mail train—the Omaha papers are only making a just demand that the business interests of the east and west be placed upon an equal footing with the newspaper interest of four Chicago publishers.

The *Journal* is ignorant or designing. The business men of Lincoln and Nebraska have the chance to teach it a needed lesson and make it faithful to the people it assumes to represent.

Whenever fashion perfects or custom evolves something humanly perfect, it is immediately attacked by a parasite which has grown with its growth and does not cease growing when the fashion has reached the height of beauty, and the custom has perfected a satisfactory and comfortable final product. In consequence the finished result of evolution is doomed, no matter how small the enemy in the first place.

Perhaps coffee is a greater satisfaction to more people than any other of the minor amenities of life. To a very few it is a poison. But that is no reason why the other ninety and nine should be forced to drink a potion made from parched corn. It would be just as fair to put all the sane people in asylums and leave the world for the insane. Coffee invigorates, cheers, brightens and encourages the normal individual. It has taken centuries to learn how to cook it and serve it. With a spoonful of cream it has reconciled the drunkard to temperance and kept the prohibitionist contented with his diet. This being so and everybody happy, the papers are suddenly filled with advertisements for a substitute for a drink which can not be

improved; breakfast table chat all at once degenerates into depressing discussions about the best way to cook parched corn, and the one who loathes it and resents the insult the mixture is offering to an honored friend, is urged to try it. Coffee will not go down before the insidious attacks of a manufacturer who has made a fortune out of burnt corn, but the people who are always looking for a new doctor, minister, medicine or treatment have banished coffee for the sake of tasteless and ineffectual corn and the rest of the world is obliged to listen to its praises. Fashion had produced a sleeve that was becoming to the fat and the lean. It became eventually a little too large, but it has been superseded by a tight sleeve, which is at once ugly and uncomfortable. It reveals imperfections which the large sleeve mercifully concealed, and it prevents free movements of the limb which in bony and muscular structure is the freest and most perfect in mechanical arrangement of any part of the body. Thus do the microbes of style and commercial gain get in their deadly work.

A recent review in speaking of the characteristics of universities in America says that "The university of the west is undoubtedly the university of the future. It is a hard thing to say, and one that would be widely disputed, but it is a fact that the man from the western university has that great thing, modernity, far above the eastern graduate. Observing people have been convinced of this fact and we are already on the edge of the time when students from the west will not attend eastern schools and when students in the middle west will turn their faces toward the great institutions that lie in the direction of the Pacific."

The writer of the foregoing knows enough about the English and German universities, about those situated in the south, the east, the west and the middle west in this country to characterize them. As, for instance in the following.

"Each university stamps its characteristics upon its students. The university of Virginia gives them a subdued gentleness combined with cordiality and an open heartedness; Yale a bearing—a gentleman of the old school. Johns Hopkins give an interest in science and a cosmopolitan spirit; Princeton, a certain dignity of bearing, more interested in philosophy than science; Harvard, an air of assurance that he has been properly instructed; Yale a trifle aggressive. West of the Alleghenies, such colleges as Washington and Jefferson make their students what we call American, of which Blaine and Quay are representatives. These students are away from the influences of English universities, on which the eastern schools are founded. They are ambitious, interested in American history, and are in the midst of the new center of national life. The Ann Arbor university is very democratic. It is remarkably cosmopolitan. It was the first great school in

this country to use the elective system as it is used in Germany. The Wisconsin university is rapidly becoming one of the strongest institutions in the country. It is developing Yankee ideas with western push and new life. In history it is one of the very best. The universities of Chicago, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas are all marked schools. Those of Minnesota and California rank with that of Wisconsin.

Only one who knows the modern university practically and comparatively can tell if the types are here hit off correctly. The western university is much more like the German university than like the eastern. It is jealous of the east and will not receive inspiration from that part of the country. Nebraska especially is under the direct influence of Germany. The professors who confess the greatness of Cambridge or England are ridiculed. The west holds that it is only a truckling spirit who acknowledges that the east can set us a pattern in literature, manners or customs. In the years of the seventies when Professor Woodberry arrived from Cambridge with a cane, a cigarette, a Harvard swing, a Boston accent and incidentally great learning and talent, which has already made him the foremost critical writer in this country, the students and some of the faculty bitterly resented the accent, the walk and the airs, which after all were nothing more than an ordinary college man's uplift over the herd but held in suspension in his case a little longer because it was the Boston kind. After indignation at the regents for daring to get anything eastern out here had subsided somewhat, Prof. Woodberry's brilliant qualities as a teacher of literature were revealed. Sometime after a man arrived from Brown university by the name of Bennett. He wore glasses, never pronounced the letter "r" and had certain ideas about class room decorum which in connection with his eastern origin was enough to stigmatize him as "stuck up." Having sent a man out of his classroom for some horse play the members of the class went to the chancellor and demanded that Prof. Bennett be given his time. The only reason they could give when questioned as to why they thought he should not enjoy the privilege of instructing them any longer in Latin and Greek was that he was trying to introduce eastern customs in the west. This storm blew over, the students and the professor got acquainted to their mutual benefit and real pleasure. Chancellor Canfield was sometimes accused of trying to induce Nebraska university to become more eastern, but I have heard him deny the charge with some heat. Professor Fry is the latest suspect. He has many characteristics of the Cambridge school which the Nebraska student has said over and over again he will not suffer in a lecturer. Although the Nebraska university student allows greater liber-