

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Subscribed and sworn before this 1st day of February, A. D. 1900. M. E. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

Kentucky has two governors and two legislatures and still public business is falling behind.

Up to date not many English towns have been able to add captured cannon to their park decorations.

In their numerous advances and retreats the English should be able to ascertain the best place to cross the Tugela river.

Senator Jones has offered a free coinage amendment to the finance bill. The republicans can with good reason plead res judicata to this.

Secretary Porter is making a record for kicking over the fusilist traces which threatens to equal that of the best kicker in the herd.

Nebraska is just showing the tourists who come here to enjoy the fine winter climate that it is capable of producing anything that any other state can offer.

That Cedar Rapids church was just in position to go out on a strike. If a position in the choir does not entitle the holder to see all that is going on in the pews it is not worth having.

The pure food commission at last sees a chance to ascertain "where it is at." The attorney general has finally found time to file the petition in the supreme court which has been waiting on him for some time.

Omaha taxpayers have saved lots of money by not having the city enveloped in heavy snow this winter. It costs money to keep the streets clear of snow and with the street cleaning fund exhausted the streets would simply have remained uncleared and impassable.

It is in the eternal fitness of things that the local poperatic organ should expend space ad libitum in its columns for the speech of John L. Webster in his effort to clear himself and his associates from the odium arising out of the manufacture of testimony in the Miles will case.

The National Teachers' association will hold its annual convention in Charleston, S. C., this year. The south is the greatest field for educational work and holding a convention in the heart of the south means that the association is going back to the center of its biggest field of operations.

This is the kind of weather that stimulates people to build fires hotter than the capacity of the flues and makes business for the fire department. People who do not want to collect on insurance policies should take a hint and see that the furnaces and stovepipes are in good condition. A stitch in time saves nine.

The assistant director of the census is about to start on a tour of the south and west to give instructions to the census supervisors with reference to the performance of their duties. There should be no need of the assistant director putting Nebraska on his itinerary because the Nebraska supervisors know what is expected of them.

Principals and janitors in the Omaha schools have their pay gauged by the number of rooms in the building over which they preside. That may have something to do with the tendency of the school authorities to consolidate the school work in large school buildings rather than distribute it to smaller schools nearer the people's homes.

Omaha is singularly blessed with improvement clubs in the various quarters of the city, each intent upon the development of the streets and parks of its particular section. Between the North Omaha Improvement club and the South Side club and the West Side Improvement club the only parts of the city that seem to be unoccupied are the river front and the business center.

INVOKING JUDICIAL ANARCHY.

In taking upon himself the overthrow of a decision of the supreme court affirming the constitutional right of every community to home rule in the government of its police and fire-fighting forces, Attorney General Smyth invokes judicial anarchy.

Decisions of supreme courts are as binding upon the attorney general as they are upon the humblest citizen. In fact they should be more binding upon the attorney general because as the law officer of the state he is sworn to obey the constitution and the laws as interpreted by the supreme court whether coinciding or conflicting with his views.

It is not for the attorney general to question the judgments of the court of last resort rendered after they have passed through every stage of full hearing, due consideration, arguments for rehearing and final issue of the mandate. Even in cases involving life and death, the attorney general could not reopen a case finally decided, but he would have to appeal to the governor for executive clemency demanded by the discovery of new evidence.

In the police commission case, however, all the issues presented by the attorney general in his petition for reopening were raised and passed upon by the court. The parties to the suit are identical and the controversy is identical. The motion for rehearing was denied and the old commissioners accepted the decision as final and vacated their offices.

If the attorney general's contention to reopen and reverse the police commission case accords with law, no reason exists why every case that has been finally adjudicated by one set of supreme court judges cannot be reopened by their successors. If Mr. Smyth's successor should be a republican, would the court have a right to refuse him the privilege of reopening all the cases passed on before he came into office?

Why cannot Attorney General Smyth with the same propriety reopen the insurance commissioner case just because a new judge has taken his seat on the bench? Why cannot Mr. Smyth reopen the Hill case, by which the state of Nebraska lost \$236,000, and show his vigilance for the public interest?

What else than judicial anarchy does the attorney general invoke and provoke when he attempts to restore a set of police commissioners against whom impeachment charges were pending which even his own associates and partisans have pronounced as well-founded and which were used in behalf of Mr. Smyth's Jacksonians at the democratic primaries Thursday as a convincing argument for the defeat of the County Democracy?

Does not Attorney General Smyth lay himself justly chargeable with using his authority for destroying all public respect for the judiciary and general contempt for court decisions that are to be changed at will every time a court changes political complexion?

ANOTHER PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

President McKinley will send another commission, composed entirely of civilians, to the Philippine islands, charged with the duty of establishing civil government there. As congress has not authorized a commission the president is acting in the matter entirely upon his own responsibility. It is expected that congress will provide compensation for the members of the commission and the necessary employees, but if it should not do so it is understood that the funds required for this purpose will be taken from the customs and other receipts at Manila and the various ports of the islands.

The new commission is in pursuance of the recommendations of the first one, whose report, or a part of it, has just been submitted. This proposes the institution of civil government in the Philippines on a liberal basis, giving preference to natives who are qualified for civic duties and establishing an administration of affairs in which the people there can largely participate. It is thus made evident that the president is convinced that organized resistance to the authority of the United States is at an end and that it will be safe to supersede the military by a civil government. This does not mean, of course, that the army is to be at once withdrawn from the Philippines. A military force will be kept there until the civil government is firmly established and how long this may require cannot now be determined. There are still hostile Filipinos. Predatory bands continue to infest a portion of Luzon, causing some annoyance to the American troops and adding to the list of casualties. It is impossible to say how long it will take to disperse or destroy these bands, but their existence does not offer any serious obstacle to instituting civil government. It will require, however, the maintenance of a military force, though perhaps in a few months a considerably lesser force than we now have in the islands will be sufficient for their complete pacification and for the maintenance of peace and order.

It is doubtless the opinion of President McKinley that the institution of civil government, along the lines recommended by the Schurman commission, will have a reassuring effect upon the Filipinos and it is certainly to be hoped that such will be the case. It would seem that those people must be convinced of the determination of the United States to retain the Philippines and exercise sovereignty over them and as to its power to do this the more intelligent Filipinos can hardly have any doubt. Many of them will most reluctantly give up the hope of independence, whatever assurances may be given of fair and liberal treatment by the United States, but if a majority should set in such civil government as is proposed, the promise of better political, social and industrial conditions than they have ever enjoyed, the minority would probably soon cease to be troublesome and once there should be complete pacification there ought to be no great difficulty in maintaining it. It is suggested that in view of executive action congress may reserve all

consideration until next session, thus for the time being overcoming the constitutional dilemma involved in legislating for the new possessions. It is quite possible, however, that a question may be raised as to the authority of the president to take the proposed course independent of any action by congress.

WOODS' ADMINISTRATION.

The administration of affairs in Cuba under Governor General Wood appears to be proceeding smoothly and satisfactorily. There have been a few instances of official friction, but nothing of a serious nature and they have been easily settled without leaving any bad feeling behind. General Wood is a marked success in pacification and his methods in this respect cannot fail to make a good impression upon the people. While firm in carrying out his policy he is not offensively arbitrary and as there is a strong public confidence in his integrity of purpose and in the earnestness of his desire to do all possible to prepare the people for independence and self-government, he finds little difficulty in securing a general and ready acquiescence in his plans. Very little opposition or criticism is heard and what there is comes from sources that have little influence.

It is to be assumed that the people are steadily growing more familiar with American principles of government and that when they shall be called upon, as they probably will within the next two or three months, to take the initial step in civil government according to the American plan they will be found to be quite well prepared for it. The only question, as now appears, which may prove troublesome is that of the suffrage. In respect to this, however, it seems to us that our government is bound to recognize the principle that is at the foundation of our own political system and make the suffrage universal.

THE SUNDAY BEE.

The Bee Sunday will be usual by up to the high standard of excellence shown by the most enterprising western newspaper. Its news columns will cover the entire world with intelligible reports of important events at home and abroad.

The Illustrated Bee will offer a variety of literary and pictorial features sure to please the most exacting reader. A striking frontispiece and significant of the coming reign of St. Valentine represents a bright little Omaha girl in the net of posting a valentine missive.

The animals in Omaha's growing Zoo at Riverfront park form the subject of an illustrated description of this favorite pleasure resort. The pictures are taken specially for The Bee and will rank with the best productions of the difficult branch of animal photography.

The final installment of the series on the public schools of Nebraska is contained in this number. The illustrations accompanying it show school work at Grand Island; the handsome school building at Indianola, one of the kindergarten rooms at Lincoln and the girls' Battalion of the Kearney High school cadets.

Carpenner's letter this week is a most interesting interview with Marquis Ito of Japan. He is the first of the great men of Japan and prominent in its civilizing movement. The portraits given are of the marquis and of his wife, the Marchioness Ito, made from photographs presented by the marquis to Mr. Carpenner, whose own portrait is also reproduced.

Congressman Hill of Illinois, chairman of the house committee on foreign affairs, is introduced in the face-to-face photographs of prominent men made by Frances B. Johnston; while Seumas MacManus, the famous Irish storyteller, comes in for a sketch, set off by his portrait.

Another interesting group of photographs will be found in copies of the latest photographs of Germany's imperial family, including Emperor William and the empress and two of the young princes as they appeared during their recent visit to the emperor's grandmother, Queen Victoria of England.

Among the miscellaneous pictures is a group of a fraternal convention at Lincoln, a photograph of the University of Nebraska champion hoop ball team, a snap shot at the workmen who carved the granite at the entrance of Omaha's new postoffice building, with the carrying of its background, and the new bandstand in Fairmount park in Council Bluffs.

The fashion pictures this week show the latest hair ornaments which form a necessary part of every well-dressed woman's toilet.

People who buy The Sunday Bee will have all the news of the day and a handsome illustrated magazine as well—both at the usual price of one.

If half that the Jacksonian leaders have charged in black and white against the bellwethers that ran the old police board is true, it was the most rotten gang that ever infested Omaha. And if one-half that has been charged by the opposite faction against the Jacksonians is true, there would not be room enough in the penitentiary to hold all the crooks and robbers that have been feeding at the public crib under the banner of reform.

Nebraska has \$92,215,219 invested in school property and spends \$4,488,053 a year for the education of its youth, and the result is the per cent of illiteracy is the smallest of any state in the union. Some of the older states should take a look at the figures from Nebraska and other western states and they will see why the great west is outstripping the east in progress and influence.

Now that numerous columns of the poperatic organ have been used for the rank and file to suggest who would make acceptable candidates for office, the men whose dictum counts will have a say. The editor of the poperatic organ having fallen outside the breast-

works in the first skirmish, may not have as much to say about it as some of his contributors.

Bryan's lecture did not prove a good investment for the New York City Grand Army post. The gross receipts were \$200 short of enough to pay the hall rent and music bill. Speeches are evidently subject to the law of supply and demand, like anything else, and the Bryan product is in excess of the consuming powers of the paying public.

And Modder, Too! What does John Bull call for a little thing like the Nicaragua canal when he has the Tugela river on his mind?

Hankering for a Tab. Philadelphia Ledger. Now, while the British lion is looking the other way, the Russian bear thinks the time opportune for a warm sea bath.

Pañ, and See Him Smile. Washington Star. Lord Kitchener is said to be very bitter in his denunciation of the newspapers. Yet they come in very sweetly when a military man does something which entitles him to popular approval.

Henry Clay's Warning. Boston Herald. "Sir," said Henry Clay of Kentucky in the United States senate, just fifty years ago, "I have seen other anxious periods in the history of our country, and if I were to venture to try to predict the source of the cause of all our present dangers, difficulties and distraction, I should ascribe it to the violence and intemperance of party spirit. I hope it will not be out of place here to employ of Him who holds the destiny of nations and individuals in His hands to calm the violence and rage of the party, to still passion, to allow reason once more to resume its empire." Here is a lofty sentiment eloquently expressed and it is a good text for Kentucky today.

Lessening the Army of Unemployed. New York World. The report of the New York State bureau of Labor Statistics for 1899 gives these interesting facts:

At the end of December, 1898, 27.2 per cent of all the working people in all trades were unemployed. At the end of March, 1899, the unemployed amounted to 38.6 per cent. At the end of June the percentage was 30.9. At the end of September it had sunk to 4.7 per cent. At present it is incalculably small.

How much these simple figures mean of prosperity! How much they mean of happiness in the home lives of hundreds of thousands! How much they mean of an fare for the country! What a warning they hold for politicians who would stigmatize "calamity" campaign!

Cost of the Spanish War.

Our Spanish war was neither a great conflict nor of long duration and the Philippine rebellion, which followed it, has never risen to the dignity of a great struggle. Fighting at long range, even when there is a little real fighting to be done, is expensive, however, and the figures furnished by the various departments at Washington show that war even on a small scale, comes high. The total cost of the Philippine war, \$200,000,000 paid for the Philippines, the entire military and naval operations since the outbreak of the Spanish hostilities, is \$325,000,000, of which the lion's share, or \$225,000,000, has been spent on the army.

Of the \$225,000,000 expended upon the navy a goodly portion at least may be charged to an expenditure of permanent character which will have a future value. The vessels purchased or built, with the armaments, constitute an important addition to our naval equipment.

CARNAGE AT FRANKLIN.

What General Gordon Pronounces the Bloodiest Battle of Civil War. Minneapolis Tribune.

In his address at the unveiling of the monument to the confederate soldiers who died their lives in the battle of Franklin, in 1864, General Gordon, who is well known in this section and throughout the country from his successful career as a lecturer, as well as his reputation as a brilliant confederate commander, gave a graphic statement of the losses sustained in that memorable action. The opposing forces in the battle were nearly equal in numbers, aggregating about 29,000 infantry on each side. The confederates were the attacking force and the federals were the defending. The fight was a desperate one and the casualties were appalling, especially on the confederate side. Among the general and field officers who were killed or captured, the numbers engaged than in any other battle of the civil war. Six general officers were killed, six wounded and one captured, making a total loss of thirteen for the confederates. On the side of the federal forces, 10 general officers were killed, 10 wounded and nine captured, while 172 were killed or disabled on the field. The federal loss was about one-third that of the confederates.

Of the confederate forces engaged the infantry lost 33 per cent. The loss in Stewart's corps, by divisions, was: Lorring's, 23 per cent; Walther's, 25; French's, 45. In Chestnut's corps the loss was: Bate's division, 16 per cent; Brown's, 31; Cleburn's, 52. In Lorring's corps, Jackson's division was the only division of this corps that was in the battle and in the second charge, the loss was 21 per cent.

Pickett's charge at Gettysburg is often spoken of by the confederate division was history. The loss of Pickett's division was 21 per cent, while the confederate loss at Franklin of the infantry engaged was 33 per cent, or 16 per cent greater than Pickett's loss. General Gordon is undoubtedly justified in saying that the battle of Franklin was the bloodiest of the civil war, and even in going further and expressing a doubt "if in any of the bloody battles of the world, from Marathon to Waterloo, from Vercy to Balaklava and from Balaklava to Gettysburg, there was more desperate fighting than was displayed on some portions of this famous field."

In comparison with this action none of the battles so far fought in South Africa can be claimed as anything more than skirmishes, while the proportion of losses sustained by the British troops, when defeated, are trivial when compared with the losses sustained by the beaten confederates at Franklin. The inference would seem to be that the mortality in warfare is not increased by the use of battle new weapons, even when troops are charged strong fortifications defended by the most expert riflemen in the world. The strength of the federal entrenchments at Franklin could not compare with the strength of the Boer entrenchments in Natal, and the federals were armed almost to a man with the old muzzle-loading muskets.

The reason why casualties do not increase with the greater precision and range of the weapons is because of the open-order formation of the line of battle now employed and the practice of the men in lying down and taking advantage of every available cover. The British troops under Methuen and Buller were not adapted in this mode of warfare at the start. If they had been their casualties would have been much lighter than they were. The survivors have in doubt learned a good deal by their bitter experiences and hereafter we may expect to hear of still higher casualties in proportion to number engaged and results achieved.

COMMENT ON THE TREATY.

St. Louis Republic (dem.): Let's insist on the Nicaragua canal being a bona fide American project. American benefits, with its approach, commanded by American fortifications and its status anything but neutral in the event of war with a foreign power.

Chicago Times-Herald (rep.): It is very sweet and commendable in the British diplomatists to hold up the neutrality of the canal as an object lesson as to how this nation should neutralize the Nicaragua canal—but it is also devilish sly and crafty.

Washington Post (ind. rep.): Either we have the right to construct a canal across the Isthmus, or we have not. If we have not, no European nation can give it to us. If we have, there is no occasion to ask England's permission to exercise it. Let us at least be dignified!

New York Times (ind. dem.): The wisest policy, the safest for us, the best for the civilized world, the perfect neutrality of the canal under the guarantee of all the maritime nations of the world, as a waterway which shall be open at all times, in war as in peace, to ships of every kind under any flag, is embodied in the treaty before the senate.

Detroit Journal (rep.): Our investment in an interoceanic canal will be as safe as the fortifications which under a guarantee of neutrality from all the leading powers it will no more need defending than do the Straits of Magellan or the Suez canal; and it should, like those great waterways, be a highway of commerce for the unimpeded benefit of all. That it could not be forced or forced at some time the scene of bombardment is obvious.

Chicago Tribune (rep.): The Hay-Panetoe treaty, being in derogation of the Monroe doctrine and dangerous to the national welfare in times of war, should not be ratified. Americans have arrived at the conclusion that the canal should be under American control rather than national security than for its commercial use. Therefore it must be exclusively under American control and not at the service of the enemies of the United States when they are warring against America.

Boston Globe (dem.): It remains to be seen whether a sufficient number of the senate of the United States will vote to ratify any "amended treaty" that would prevent this nation, if it should build the Nicaragua canal at its own cost, from exercising exclusive control thereof in time of war. It remains to be seen, also, whether congress will authorize the Nicaragua canal plan at all, long as it has been before the American public. "Doubtful things are mighty ominous."

New York Sun (rep.): We may never want to fortify the approaches to this American canal. We may never need or care to plant a single gun there. That is not ought to remain our own business. But formally to surrender in advance the right to fight at our own canal in defense of our own interests, perhaps of our national existence, and to become voluntarily a party to a foreign guarantee of the use of the canal by our enemies in their military and naval operations against ourselves—what language does the diplomatic dictionary supply of sufficient cogency to characterize such a stupendous, such suicidal mistake of policy?

Minneapolis Times (ind. dem.): Why, pray, should England object to our fortification of the prospective Atlantic and Pacific terminations of the coming canal? Has she not Gibraltar and Malta as guard over the northern approach to the Suez? Is she not Alexandria, which is practically in English hands—with Aden to the southward and farther down Bombay? If non-fortification is to be insisted on, we must dismantle all forts on Porto Rico and on St. Thomas, should we buy that island, and must make of Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian group a naval station merely. There is not the slightest necessity for low-towing to Great Britain.

New York World (dem.): So far as war between any European state, including England, and the United States is concerned, the canal has no interest at all. What European power would attempt to use that canal when we could so easily patrol their terminal harbors and destroy the enemy's ships one by one as they came out? Of what avail would fortifications at the ends of Latin America in along sea banks be when the only object an enemy could have—the object of destroying the canal itself—could be accomplished by a few men with a little dynamite? For our own sake we would declare the canal neutral and arrange to engage the enemy after he emerged if he should be insane enough to adventure that route.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

Massachusetts has fifteen insurance men as members of its legislature.

Some Illinois democrats are trying to resuscitate Horizontal Bill Morrison and run him for governor.

A bill is to be introduced into the Michigan legislature to provide for the employment of convicts in the building and repairing of the state highways.

The pay roll of the city of New York for 1900 amounts to \$40,000,000, an increase of \$6,000,000 over last year. As a meat-getter the tiger is unequalled.

Congressman Bradley of New York is one of the best linguists in the house. He can speak French, Italian and an Bohemian dialect and reads Hebrew and Gaelic.

Senator Morgan's re-election to the United States senate is far from being a certainty. It is claimed that Governor Johnson has a majority of the votes that make senators in Alabama.

A statement just issued by the tax department of Pennsylvania shows that the total assessed valuation of real estate in that state is \$2,728,163,336. That of New York is \$4,412,848,496.

Mr. Sewall of Maine has taken himself out of the list of candidates for the senate by embracing expansion and other policies that provoke bilious attacks in the democratic camp.

The Illinois republican state committee has changed the date of the state convention from April 10 to May 8 in consequence of the late Carter Case.

At a recent dinner Mayor Hart of Boston said: "In one of our large institutions, for which an outside firm bid \$25,000, the city department of Boston had the work already paid out \$75,000. That is the sort of thing I'm going to try to stop."

Thomas R. Bard, the new senator-elect of California, succeeding Stephen M. White, is a native of Pennsylvania, 68 years of age, and a lawyer by profession. He was a member of Colonel Thomas Scott's staff in the civil war and on his advice moved to California in 1865 to look after Colonel Scott's interests there. Mr. Bard was a presidential elector on the republican tickets in 1880 and 1892 and was a delegate to the Blaine convention in 1884.

The vote at the Mississippi primaries for United States senator—there were two vacancies to be filled by the legislature this month—was 65,837, a considerable total when considered in connection with the fact that the total vote of Mississippi for governor at the same election was only 48,300. Instead of leaving to the legislature, as is the rule in other states, the choice of senatorial candidates the voters of Mississippi determined to have the matter regulated at the democratic primaries at which legislators were chosen—the popular election of senators, as it is called. The legislature consists of 178 democrats, 2 populists and no republicans and the choice of Governor McLaughlin and the re-election of Senator Sullivan, both democrats, was therefore an easy matter.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The famine in India this year is considered to be about three and a half times as extensive as that of 1898-1899. Fifty million people are affected. The machinery at the disposal of Lord Curzon is inadequate to deal with the necessities of the case, although he and Lady Curzon do not spare themselves or those under them in fighting for the lives of the inhabitants of the desolated areas. Those recurring famines in India under British rule can no longer be regarded as isolated events. During the present century, that is, since 1801, the population of British India has not been increased by more than 30,000,000 persons and the great majority of those recurring annual famines are but the advanced patrols that is shaping itself in the plains of India and in the valleys of the Ganges and the Indus cannot long be postponed. Under the Moguls the sword and unchecked famine regulated the population of India by adjusting the numbers of the inhabitants to the capacity of the soil for maintaining the normal food supply. In good years the people increased. In bad years they died of hunger and disease. In the year 1801 the people numbered about 200,000,000 souls. Britain from that time to this has fostered and preserved human life in India, at the sacrifice, it is to be feared, of all that makes life worth living. War has been replaced by litigation, the elaborate legal machinery of the civilized world benefits the rich at the expense of the poor, the intelligent at the expense of the ignorant. What the poor Hindu wants is cheap equity and rapid finality. What he gets is costly, unintelligent law, with unreckoned increases in a population that can no longer be maintained on the soil.

A correspondent of the London Times, writing from Capetown, says that the Boers are depending much less than is commonly supposed upon the advice of foreign military advisers. In support of this opinion he quotes a man only recently from the Transvaal. The latter, who contends that the Boer are at a loss what to do with their gentlemen, whether they come as accredited attaches or volunteer advisers. They require a great deal of attention and their advice, being based on absolutely different lines of tactics, is valueless and only leads to the ruin of the Boer army. During the war I know that the Boers have a profound distrust and contempt for European military methods and, with the exception of Albrecht, they have practically no foreign officers even in the artillery. The Transvaalers, however, acknowledge that they have learned several useful tactical devices from the Free States, especially in making intrenchments in the least expected places and at the foot of kopjes instead of only on the ridges.

Aside from the natural horrors that accompany a state of siege, the inhabitants of a beleaguered town find the feeling of activity most unbearable, and readily turn to any form of occupation to divert their minds. One of the games of patience with which an English correspondent at Ladysmith amused himself consisted in counting the shots fired by the enemy and compiling statistics therefrom. Some time ago he had counted 2,680 shells, 1,070 of which fell in the town itself, 860 in the defenses and the rest scattering. Calculating the cost of each shell \$100, the total expenditure by the Boers on ammunition alone in this one locality had amounted by that time to \$268,000, making the cost for each life destroyed by shell-fire nearly thousand dollars.

The man who has just been mentioned as a correspondent at Ladysmith, was able to extract some little comfort from his observations. It would doubtless prove a further consolation for him to know that Prof. Max Nordau has figured that an Englishman besieged in Ladysmith is less dangerous than his countrymen at home attacked by influenza. But it is doubtful if this cheering view of the situation has occurred to him.

When the recent bribery trials began in Odessa it was rumored that matter more important was behind, and it is now reported that the court-martial will reassemble soon to investigate charges of rank corruption against officers of very high military rank. During the first trial the prosecuting officers made some vigorous and sweeping comments on the general state of military honor and the common honesty that had been exhibited by persons of lofty station. The belief now seems to be that radical measures are to be taken, and that the responsible authorities intend to begin at the top, without caring whose susceptibilities are hurt. One of the most prominent officers to be tried is Captain Yerohoff, until recently secretary of the recruiting department, in which some of the gravest scandals have occurred, and with him are involved a whole host of subordinate officers. Other departments of the military organization are beginning to show signs of great uneasiness, fearing that investigation will come their way next and that a new era is dawning for Russian officialdom. Among the general public the home is rising, and there really is, at last, some intention of putting an end to the rottenness which has long existed in the military administration.

Complaints of the scarcity of coal are made all over Europe and are especially frequent in Austria, Germany and Italy. Even the naval authorities of Austria seem to be unable to get enough fuel for their not very extensive fleet. It is said that the navigation of the Rhine has diminished perceptibly and that the price of coal has risen alarmingly at all the Rhenish towns, while the Rhenish-Westphalian coal syndicate has announced a further increase. In Italy the dearth is so marked that several of the Lombard factories have been obliged to stop work and in Milan, Genoa, Naples and in Rome itself appeals have been made to the Italian government to take some measures toward securing a more adequate and regular supply. The Italian government expresses a suspicion that the "coal lords" are secretly adding to their stocks and hoarding them, with a view to extorting huge profits. It is said that a number of factories in Genoa have been obliged to close, throwing many men and women out of employment.

Continental military critics show a ready and concurrent disposition to sneer at England's military operations in South Africa, but some of them are candid enough to admit that the forces of any other nation, unless introduced in overwhelming numbers, could not carry on independent operations at the same time, would in all likelihood have fared quite as badly. The Boer lives in a territory where there is a natural fortress in almost every mile of its extent and a better fighter to man and defend than he, and, if may be added, a more suitably armed one, does not exist anywhere. Criticism of military operations to have any value should be based on a correct knowledge of the difficulties to be surmounted and the continental censurers in general now know pretty well what they have been doing. It is time for them to experiment to reveal them and they were found a good many times more formidable than the attacking party or anybody expected.

IRRIGATION INTERESTS.

Necessity for United Action by Western Members of Congress.

The interests of irrigation will be advanced by the settlement of other questions which have caused delay in adopting a definite storage policy for the saving of flood waters. There is a halt all along the line to wait for the settlement of the range leases in the semi-arid region for the use of stockmen. The proceeds of such leases are to be divided with the states, to be by them applied to irrigation purposes. It is very desirable that the leasehold policy be at once applied in order that there may be an accurate measure of the amount it will produce for irrigation. When such measure is taken the people will know how much capital they must seek elsewhere for the storage of storm waters, and will determine what it is to be sought, and how until the leasehold question is brought down out of the air it is a real obstruction to progress in irrigation.

The leasing of ranges for cattle on the public domain is a big enough question to stand alone and win on its merits. Since the stock increased and the forage has been decreasing there has been a lawless condition on the ranges for which any kind of law would be an agreeable substitute. The cattleman has been arrayed against the sheepman, and there has been between them a condition of actual war, involving the destruction of much property and a loss of life. There have been scores of sub-fine, sheepman against sheepman and cattleman against cattleman, contesting for a season's result there has been not only a condition of lawlessness, while the gentle sheepherd has gone armed like a marauder, but the total value of that part of the public domain adapted to grazing has dwindled year by year, through overstocking and destruction of its natural grasses.

The fault was with congress, and a disposition is now shown to correct it. If a law be passed which properly regulates the leases, is respectful of actual stockowners and of the small rancher's privilege to control enough abutting commons for his domestic stock, and small herd and small means, speculation in leaseholds, a most grateful change will appear. Then the leaseholder will be interested in renewing the exhausted grasses of his range and the agriculturalist will find their most useful occupation in protecting the country's beef food supply, by assisting in re-seeding to the plants which supply forage.

It is proposed to make the tenure of the leaseholds ten years, with the privilege of two renewals, a total of thirty years. It is safe to say that at the end of that period the government will own grazing lands more valuable than they were when ranged only by the buffalo, elk, deer and antelope, and the beef food supply of the country will be in better condition than now. Our western members should see the importance of united action to secure such legislation, and all irrigators should give their weight and influence to it, to clear the ground for the specific interest which they represent.