

THE Northwestern railway is about to put upon the market refunding bonds to the amount of one hundred million dollars, drawing three per cent interest.

SENATOR ALLEN introduced in the senate a few days ago a bill prepared by the war department to provide for the instruction of the militia, attaching a section calling upon the secretary of war to concentrate at Omaha between June and November, 1898, 30 per cent of the militia of the United States and 30 per cent of the regular army for the purpose of drill and instruction, and to defray the expenses of this mobilization he asks congress to appropriate \$3,500,684.

THAT long expected drop in the price of high grade bicycles has at last arrived, and you can now buy for \$75 a wheel which has heretofore cost an even hundred. The drop in the price of standard wheels will cause the manufacturers of cheaper wheels to also reduce their prices, and later in the season a pretty good wheel can be bought for thirty dollars.

In last week's issue of his people's party paper Thos. E. Watson charges that the fusionists have entered into a compact to deliver the populist vote to the democrats in 1900, and that the \$1,500 recently contributed to the populist fund by Mr. Bryan out of the proceeds of his book sales is the first instalment of the purchase money.

STEBBINS OPPOSED TO FUSION

"A political party without a valid cause for action had better keep out of the court of public opinion. No fusion party can have any other excuse for existence than that of a desire to capture the offices. No good nor permanent results can ever accrue from continued fusion. Fusionists can not fight for principle. It is impossible to fuse principles opposed to each other."

Such were the words of Lucien Stebbins to a Hub man Friday, in reply to a question as to whether he favored fusion in Nebraska between populists and democrats. Mr. Stebbins is the populist representative from North Platte, and he was in the city enroute to Kansas City. Mr. Stebbins is a populist of the old school, and perhaps did as much or more to organize the party in western Nebraska than any other man.

A female tramp strode into South Sioux City the other day. She had a passport which set forth that she was on her way from Iowa to the bedside of her sick sister at Ainsworth. Her tale of woe lured several subsidings coins from their hiding places in the capacious pockets of the villagers. She had her hotel board paid and when she started away next morning she stole several articles of value from the hotel. She was overhauled and made to disgorge.

would be in the penitentiary before the next election.

Mr. Stebbins is opposed to fusion and I say the only way the populists can win is to put up a straight ticket and fight the campaign on the issues laid down in the Omaha platform.

He says there are undoubtedly good men in all parties, but he finds that the good men elected to office are in the minority. He thinks it impossible for the masses of the people to control a party's organization, and thinks the ringsters and disreputable will continue to sneak into office in spite of all precautions that can be used.

NOTES ABOUT EUROPE.

Italy is apparently doomed to misfortune in connection with everything that she undertakes in Africa.

Two years ago a bithe young girl, vivacious, refined and healthy, now a startling specimen of wrecked womanhood—prematurely aged, careworn and feeble.

For some time past members of the St. Louis medical fraternity have been discussing this young woman's peculiar case. It is of rare interest from a medical standpoint.

The victim is a slave to Indian hemp, a herbal drug. Dr. Ed F. Randall, the physician in charge of City dispensary No. 1, has undertaken to cure the unfortunate girl—for, notwithstanding her haggard appearance, she is but a girl. Only members of the family and interested physicians know the whole truth.

Insanity is increasing in Ireland. English statisticians say that one serious cause of insanity is the abuse of tea, another an overindulgence in alcohol, a third the disappointment of having tried emigration and failed.

Daughters of the American Revolution in Maine are endeavoring to collect Revolutionary arms which Massachusetts gave to Maine when she became a state, in 1820, and were sold by the state in the sixties.

Lady Aberdeen presided at the convention of the national council of women of Canada recently held in Halifax. A company of men and some officers of the British ship Intrepid were taken recently from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico by the English colony of the capital city, at an expense of \$3,000, and gave concerts there which captured the town.

According to a calculation which ought to be well informed, Dr. Nansen will make about \$150,000 out of his Arctic book. So far editions have appeared in England, America and Germany.

Miss Mary Angela Dickens, a granddaughter of the famous novelist, has written a new story and called it "The Love That Wins."

An inquest was held recently before Judge Steiner in New York to determine the cause of the death of Cligot, a blue and tan terrier which perished under suspicious circumstances on Feb. 7 at the age of 4 months.

Mr. Harley, who was once a minister, but now raises dogs, said that Cligot's appetite fell off in February and an eruption broke out on him. He took him to the hospital, where Dr. Robinson gave him a prescription containing arsenic, opium and two ounces of nuxvomica.

Representative Updegraff of Iowa no longer wears boots. Since the paragraph about his footwear appeared recently he has been so pestered with funny remarks that in self defense he has taken to wearing shoes. But nothing could drive Mr. Updegraff to relinquishing his devotion to the mushroom. Out in Iowa he is known as "Toadstool Tom."

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There are problems which we've handled up to date with smart success. If the new state does no more with them, it scarcely can do less.

VICTIM OF HASHEESH

PITTIABLE PLIGHT OF A ST. LOUIS GIRL FROM ITS USE.

She Acquired the Habit While Visiting an Indian Camp and is Now a Physical Wreck—Medical Men Deeply Interested.

Two years ago a bithe young girl, vivacious, refined and healthy, now a startling specimen of wrecked womanhood—prematurely aged, careworn and feeble.

Such is a brief synopsis of the unfortunate transformation experienced by the daughter of an old and aristocratic St. Louis family. The story of this blighted life reads like a tale of fiction.

The victim is a slave to Indian hemp, a herbal drug. Dr. Ed F. Randall, the physician in charge of City dispensary No. 1, has undertaken to cure the unfortunate girl—for, notwithstanding her haggard appearance, she is but a girl.

A large London firm has secured for the entire season a commodious and well furnished detached house at Walton-on-the-Naze, where every one of its hundreds of factory hands and warehouse staff will be accommodated in batches of 30 at a time with a fortnight's free board and lodging, in addition to receiving a present of three weeks' wages.

Indian hemp is an herb that grows luxuriantly in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Indian Territory and other portions of the southwest. It has been in use by the red men for many generations.

About 18 months ago the young woman, whose name Dr. Randall declines to divulge, went to Oklahoma to visit relatives. She had been reared in St. Louis, and for 18 years had known nothing but city life.

Anxious to gratify her whim, the young woman's relatives took an outing for a week or two. In a farm wagon on they drove about the country, searching for the wildest spots.

At last the St. Louis girl found an opportunity to see the red men. Frontier towns in this advanced age are not really frontier towns, and the Indians at Perry were very much like the average white citizen in manner and action.

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Six sons and a daughter of Mr. Dupuis object to the match.

Mr. Dupuis was born near St. John's, Canada. His parents and three brothers were of usual stature and lived to be very old. It is his youth the short Frenchman was a horse jockey and rode some years in France and England.

He was attacked by a Python. Walter Fox, aged 19, is an attendant in a Tremont row (Boston) museum. Recently he started to help the keeper of a python give the snake a bath.

The keeper attracted the snake's attention for a second, when it relaxed its grip, and Fox made a leap from the cage.

The snake soon quieted down and crawled to a corner of the cage. Fox's arm was badly lacerated. At the hospital the arm was found to contain two of the serpent's teeth, that had been set into the bone and had been broken off when the young man wrenched his arm away.

Generous Treatment of Employees. A large London firm has secured for the entire season a commodious and well furnished detached house at Walton-on-the-Naze, where every one of its hundreds of factory hands and warehouse staff will be accommodated in batches of 30 at a time with a fortnight's free board and lodging, in addition to receiving a present of three weeks' wages.

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MET MANY DANGERS.

EXCITING ADVENTURES OF TWO BICYCLISTS IN THE MOHAVE DESERT.

Chased by a Bull, Menaced by Rattlesnakes and Gila Monsters—Narrowly Escaped Death at the Hands of Banditti.

J. D. Maxfield of Los Angeles, crossing the continent on a bicycle, reached Denver recently. He plugged across the Arizona deserts and through the New Mexican mountains, taking the railroad tracks for nearly the entire distance.

When he started from Los Angeles, he was accompanied by D. V. Hearn, but the latter stopped at Trinidad to go on down into Kansas and work. Maxfield is a nephew of President Bates, the well known writer of bicycle stories.

He left Los Angeles April 19 and has taken his time to the trip. He crossed the Mohave desert from end to end on his wheel. When he left Los Angeles, he had claimed records of four men who said they had ridden across the desert, but when he got out in the sands at every section house they told him the other fellows had crossed it in the cars.

Another tremor was sent through their frames when in another camp two hoboes who had been sleeping on the ground awoke in the morning to find their blankets shared by a Gila monster.

Three weeks were occupied in crossing the desert, meals being taken at section houses. Not many years ago section house people in the desert refused to feed travelers, but orders were issued compelling them to do so.

The terms of the ride were varied in New Mexico. Near San Jose, at a little place called Rio Peco, on a river of the same name, a large herd of cattle were spread out on both sides of the track.

The ordinary cow or steer would eye the travelers for a time and then bolt as if shot out of a gun. The only danger was when the herd was on both sides of the track. The minute one started all started, and they ran in the same direction.

At this particular place a monstrous old bull was willing to stand for his rights. The boys had been chased several times by bulls of a like temper, but had each time sprinted from danger.

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HE WAS REAL NICE.

This Telegraph Clerk, and She Intends to Patronize Him Exclusively.

She sailed into the telegraph office at Fourth and Vine streets, Cincinnati, recently and rapped on the receiving clerk's window. The receiving clerk remembered that she had been there about ten minutes before he came forward to meet her. He wondered what she wanted this time.

"Oh," she said, "let me have that telegram I wrote just now. I forgot something very important. I wanted to underscore the words 'perfectly lovely' in acknowledging the receipt of that bracelet. Will it cost anything extra?"

"No, ma'am," said the clerk as he handed her the message. The young lady drew two heavy lines beneath the words and said: "It's awfully good of you to let me do that. It will please Charlie so much."

"Don't mention it," said the clerk. "If you would like, I will put a few drops of nice violet extract on the telegram at the same rates."

"Oh, thank you, sir. You don't know how much I would appreciate it. I'm going to send all my telegrams through this office, you are so obliging."

And the smile she gave him would have done any one good to have seen, with the possible exception of Charlie. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Sculptor Returns to America.

Mr. Thomas Ball, the sculptor, who has resided in Florence, Italy, for the last 30 years, returned lately to America and intends to spend the rest of his life in New York.

Mr. Ball, although in his seventy-ninth year, is still full of vigor and enthusiasm and does not consider his career finished by any means. He is a native of Boston, where several of his works may be seen, notably his bronze figures of Charles Sumner and Josiah Quincy, his marble statue of John A. Andrew and his equestrian statue of Washington.

He is represented here in Central park by his colossal bronze of Webster, Washington has his "Lincoln Freeing the Slave." He also made the bronze figure of P. T. Barnum for Bridgeport and that of Edwin Forrest for the Forest home, near Philadelphia.

During the last seven years Mr. Ball has been at work on a Washington monument for Mr. Edward F. Scaries, who intends to present it to Methuen, Mass., his native town. It is to be put in place some time this year. —New York Herald.

Overexertion in Cycling.

Dr. Albu recently made an interesting communication to the Berlin Medical society on certain effects produced on the heart and other internal organs by overexertion in cycle races. His conclusions were based on the condition of 12 professional cyclists whom he had examined both before and after races lasting from 5 to 30 minutes.

The strain thrown on the heart was shown by well marked dyspnea and by the strong pulsation of the heart and arteries, but the most remarkable fact was an acute dilatation of the heart, especially of the left ventricle. This dilatation is of course temporary, disappearing when rest has been taken and returning on the occasion of the next race.

When overexertion is frequent, this dilatation may become permanent, and in a heart that was previously weak an irreparable injury may occur. Another symptom was the presence of albumen and casts in the urine, caused by the kidneys being irritated by the effort of cycling.

A Flemish George Washington. There was recently in New York a young man who bears the illustrious name of George Washington. He hailed from Brussels, the capital of Belgium.

He is fair complexioned, good looking and intelligent and is yet on the sunny side of 30. "Yes," said he to an inquiry, "my name is George Washington, and I am of the same stock and family as the illustrious man who is looked up to in the United States as the greatest of all Americans. My great-grandfather was John Washington, a half brother of General Washington.

My grandfather and father were born in England, and my father married a Belgian lady. This is my second visit to America. I am a great lover of this country and hope some day to become a citizen of the United States."

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SHE CAME OUT AHEAD.

Woman Excels Her Male Rival For Office Under Secretary Gage.

Woman doesn't always get the worst of it in the government departments. Miss Lillian Pike of Arkansas, a clerk in the office of the coast and geodetic survey, has just distinguished herself by defeating the brightest young man in the office in a difficult mathematical examination.

Recently Secretary Gage needed an expert mathematician to perform certain duties in the treasury. A young man in the coast survey applied for the place, and so did a young woman from the same office. Secretary Gage asked the chief of the survey to recommend one or the other of the applicants, but he refused to do so on the ground that both were equally proficient and capable.

The secretary then decided to examine the two clerks to determine which should have the place. The civil service commission was directed to conduct the examination and to make it as difficult as possible. The young man pulled through with a percentage of 84. She was accordingly given the place.

An interesting feature of this case is that the young woman had very few influential friends, but the young man knew several senators and congressmen, and they all urged Secretary Gage to give him the place. —Chicago Times-Herald.

Colonel Mosby and the Virginians.

"Said a Virginia politician recently: 'Poetry may be losing its hold on some people, but it is still pretty strong in Virginia. A happy quotation from Byron recently made capital for Colonel John S. Mosby all over the state. When it was announced that Colonel Mosby would apply to President McKinley for an office, some of his old opponents opened fire on him again for going over to the Republicans after the war and particularly for his always cordially expressed admiration for General Grant. It was rather poor business, and for a time Colonel Mosby paid no attention to it, but finally, when the hope was expressed that if appointed he would not be credited to Virginia, the Colonel prepared a card in reply, and it appeared in the newspapers. He reviewed briefly his career as soldier and citizen, stood by his guns and reminded his opponents that he was no longer a citizen of the state. He would abide by the record, he said. He had done his duty, and if Virginia chose to reject him let her, said he, quoting from 'Child of Hero':

"Lift the laurels on a loftier brow And be the Spartan epithet on me. Sparta hath many a worthier son than he. 'Do you know, the colonel's grit and his poetry caught the popular feeling, and the attacks on him ceased. A short time after that came the accident to Colonel Mosby at Charlottesville, which cost him an eye, and sympathy was pressed for him in every quarter. The Virginians like sentiment, and that bit from Byron, grittily applied, did the work for Mosby's enemies.'" —New York Tribune.

Holland's new franchise laws, under which elections have just been held, have resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Catholic party. The Catholics, it may be added, are committed to a protectionist policy and are strongly opposed to the attempts which are being made by the government just defeated at the polls to introduce into the kingdom obligatory military service.

The Russian minister of the interior, acting under instructions from the czar, has alleviated the severity of the press laws in all the larger towns and cities of the empire—in fact, wherever the population is over 100,000—by exempting the newspapers from the obligation of submitting all articles on political subjects to the censor before publication. Hitherto only a few of the principal papers at St. Petersburg, Moscow, Warsaw and Odessa have enjoyed this immunity. —New York Tribune.