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Secretary Ballinger declares he will not resign "while there's anything to fight." And this manifestly settles it; he will never resign.

There's this to be said for the proposed motor car trust: Poor people can't afford cars anyhow, and the rich don't care.

Still others may be discouraged from undertaking the trial-acre experiment next spring owing to the high price of acres.

Germany is preparing to retaliate against America for the Payne-Aldrich tariff. It seems that the new law is no more popular in Germany than it is at home.

One advantage of the airship as a war craft over the battle ships is that an airship does not require three or four years in building, and cost 6 million dollars.

Count Zeppelin, who is planning to build a balloon 980 feet long by eighty-five feet in diameter, to carry three hundred passengers, may find it easier to build the balloon than to find the three hundred volunteers.

Governor Shallenberger has announced that when a judge and jury send a man to the penitentiary, there must be a reason. Therefore the governor refuses to interfere unless the jury and the judge tell him they made a mistake.

The labor department at Washington is authority for the statement that it now requires \$1.44 to buy the same amount of the necessities of life as \$1.00 would buy three years ago with scarcely any corresponding increase in wages.

There is poor economy in Uncle Sam giving everything to the corporations in the form of protective and non-revenue producing duties being levied, and at the same time the government running behind. And yet the powers that be would have congress pass a ship subsidy bill and thus open another tremendous drain on the public treasury.

Enthusiasts gleefully remark that high prices make good times. They do to the seller, but what of the buyer? Take our farmers who are obliged to buy high priced hay and corn. They will not agree to the proposition that times are good with them. Neither will the laboring people whose wages are at the old notch, but what they buy has increased from 25 to 50 per cent.

When the stock of a corporation is held at a fabulous price so as to practically take it off the market, that corporation must of necessity be a paying institution. This is true of the United States Steel corporation, also of the Standard Oil. The Aldrich tariff bill makes iron and oil products even more profitable, while smaller concerns and individuals never dream of asking aid from the government.

Some time ago the Omaha Bee attacked the extravagance of Governor Shallenberger because he had purchased seventy-five cents worth of flowers. Now they are fighting like dogs over the bone because it has cost the nation \$9,000 for flowers, \$35,000 for supporting the stables, \$25,000 for traveling expenses and \$75,000 for salary for Taft for one year. Taft's total allowance for the past year amounted to \$329,420. And eggs are forty cents a dozen.

Probably if the president would state why he appointed Ballinger as Secretary of the Interior, where he

could have control over the coal lands, etc., in Alaska, or state who suggested the name of the former attorney of the Cunninghams in their efforts to obtain patents to those coal lands, for Secretary of the Interior, he would clarify the political atmosphere in the whole country. Do you believe that Taft made this appointment without knowing the former connections of his secretary? Is he a fool?

The matter as to a special session of the legislature is about settled in the minds of the masses of the Democratic party. The sentiment is unfavorable. Tremore Cone, it seems, started the cry for a special session by sending out petitions to members of the legislature, and the responses have been but few, many of the members refusing to answer one way or the other. As for the writer, who is a member of that body we can see so material good a session could accomplish at this time. We are in the clutches of a Republican supreme court, and that is all there is to it.

W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, and Hon. G. M. Hitchcock of Omaha, are both full-fledged candidates for United States senators. As between the two we are for Congressman Hitchcock, because he has been tried in the lower house of congress and not in the least found wanting. But we believe that Hon. W. J. Bryan should be pushed to the front and insisted upon to accept the nomination. Then mere announcement from Mr. Bryan himself that he will accept the nomination, will remove all other candidates. The people of Nebraska can elect Mr. Bryan, and the Republicans know it.

FROM THE BUSY WORLD.

The national conservation association has administered a real saucy slap upon the elbow to President Taft. It has chosen Gifford Pinchot as president of the society in succession to Dr. Charles W. Elliott. This is an unkind cut especially after the way Taft treated Gifford.

Reverting to President Taft's statement. It is a most remarkable document. It is a confession of weakness in the president which even those who knew him best could not have considered possible. He covers himself and his party in sackcloth and ashes and his administration is not yet a year old.

Another railroad horror occurred yesterday when a passenger train on the Soo branch of the Canadian Pacific leaped from the rails and plunged through the ice into the Spanish river near North Bay, Ont. A broken rail caused the disaster which is among the worst in the history of Canadian railroading. It is reported that at least forty persons met death.

If a postal savings bank passes it will be such as will kill the small bank and cripple the little financier. The big bank will benefit. As an useful auxiliary of Aldrich's great central bank, the right kind of a postal savings bank would be indispensable. Mark it! If Aldrich passes a postal savings bank bill, the funds will find their way into his proposed central bank.

The disaster on the Canadian Pacific railway near Nairn, Ont., last Friday continues to grow worse with each passing hour. The dead in the train which went into the Spanish river are now estimated to number fifty or more, all of whom were caught like rats in a trap and drowned. Divers are bringing bodies out of the submerged cars and every effort is being made to recover all

bodies possible. Owing to the fact that a part of the train was burned a large number of the dead will likely never be identified and the total may never be known.

France is being overwhelmed with floods and the prospect is that the loss will amount to a national disaster. Paris is reported as partly inundated, the waters of the Seine being higher than ever before. The many beautiful bridges which span that stream are threatened with destruction by the high water. The floods are caused by melting snow and rains. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless and the problem of caring for them is of the gravest nature. In addition to the flood, the water mains in several districts of Paris have broken and the people are threatened with fire without any adequate protection. The situation is one of the greatest gravity.

Another heavenly wanderer is visible in the western heavens and it is exciting the astronomers by its very strange formation. The usual comet spectrum consists of a bright series of hydro-carbon bands, but this comet shows light hydro-carbon bands with a pair of intensely bright sodium lines. The striking orange color of the comet head, is said to be due to incandescent sodium vapor. This comet is not Halley's comet as many think but is another altogether. The Halley comet will not be visible to the naked eye until March. The comet now in sight is pronounced to be that of 1882 which was so wonderfully bright. Its appearance now is puzzling astronomers for they did not expect it for many years. It can be seen about sundown in the west and its course is toward the northeast.

It is said that President Taft has succeeded in getting the factions of the Republicans in the house together and they have agreed to pass such legislation as he wants. It is said he has displayed much tact in his handling of the insurgents and while he cannot control all of them and some will vote against his pet measures he is sure of a majority for all he wants with the possible exception of the federal incorporation bill which many of the senators are afraid would be unpopular and cause them to lose their seats. The federal incorporation bill is said to be a device to take from the states the power of controlling the big trusts and corporations and the Democrats aided by the western Republicans are squarely against it. It is believed that this measure is sure to fail but the amendments which the president seeks to the interstate commerce law and his conservation bill are believed to be certain to pass. Considerable curiosity is manifested as to what the insurgents such as Congressman Norris will do with the several measures and whether they will insurge sufficient to vote against the measures.

The final results from the English parliamentary election are such as to leave little doubt that the liberals or rather the present administration, will have a majority in the new house of commons. But the majority is going to be dependent upon the Irish votes or the nationalists and this leaves the Irish in a position to demand and obtain what they want. That they will ask for a home rule bill is certain and upon the fate of this depends the success of the liberals. Home rule for Ireland would be something which the English people will not expect to see carried. The lack of success of the liberals in carrying the house with a large working majority is credited to the fact that the country districts are wedded to the old feudal idea and that in them exists a veneration for the house of lords. The fact that the lords are practically an out-of-date body in the present times does not seem to impress the British electorate and their votes have largely gone to sustain this ancient body in its supposed to be imperial authority. The friends of the budget which was the cause of the recent upheaval feel confident that the new house

will carry it and that the lords must pass it. In addition they feel that they can muster votes enough to order the reorganization of the upper house. It is an interesting situation.

Small pox is reported as raging in China and thousands are dying from it. Owing to the peculiarities of the race, it is a difficult matter to combat the disease in that country and many lives are lost owing to the superstition of the race. Bubonic plague is also raging in that country again. If there is any truth in the story of comets portending "war, penitence and famine" then we are indeed up against it for there are two tramps wandering about in the heavens just now.

Thirty-nine mayors of Ohio cities have united in a movement to secure the repeal of the county option law now in force in that state. They contend that it has resulted in ruining the business of their cities and threatens to bankrupt them. This has been the experience of every section which has adopted local option and the Ohio executives are right in their contention that it should be repealed. Lincoln may claim that it has not hurt that city but the claim is not well founded. A traveller in the city will note the change from several years ago right easily.

A highwayman with less judgment than usual tried to hold up Miss Lulu Van Fleet, a school teacher of Cleveland yesterday and he got himself savagely beaten up for his pains. The young woman who evidently is some woman, pounded him until he was black and blue and then left him in a snow bank. This serves the young man right. He ought to have tackled a man if he wanted to do any looting, a man who tries to rob a woman deserves to get a hammering up which he will not forget. The lady was so mad, however, in this case that she left her purse lying on the ground and the fellow got it after all but he sure knew it was a costly job.

Another fool and his money have had the same old experience. They have separated company. This particular character is trying to have the Kansas City police recover some \$20,000 which he claims some young woman fleeced him out of. He advanced the young woman the money he says on her prospects in an estate located in New York and finally concluded to investigate only to find that the estate was purely mythical. Now he wants her prosecuted. He gave the Kansas City authorities an alleged name and residence, fixing the latter as Lincoln which is probably true as Lincoln has always managed to produce about as many separate and distinct brands of that article as any place on earth.

A great deal of unnecessary excitement is being caused by the boycott on meat and other products which is now sweeping over the country. That any person is foolish enough to cut meat, the chief article of diet, out of his or her fare, just in order to get even with the meat trust or any other trust is ridiculous. No man helps himself who lowers his standard of living but he does a positive injury to himself. It is possible of course to injure to himself. It is possible of course to get along and wax strong, meat without meat in a diet, but is it not good judgment. The American laborer must have something to keep his body in good health and if he cuts out meat, he must substitute something else. And what else is there which has not advanced in price except wire nails and they don't make a very digestible diet. Clearly, if the price of meat is to come down, the price of everything else must follow it. Boycotts do not improve conditions contrary to what many may think.

According to the press dispatches from New York, the women of that city smoke up annually \$500,000 worth of cigarettes and this year they give every indication of using more than that amount. The practice is said to be encouraged by the modis-

tes of the city who keep expensive shops and who sell cases inlaid with games of their customers, some of the cases costing several hundred dollars in money. This is surely going some and the girls are literally burning their money up. It is said the disease reaches such a stage that some of the smokers would do without their meal than their cigarettes.

The postoffice department has issued orders by which the practice of rural carriers in taking pennies for postage on mail matter deposited, will be discontinued after February 15. This is done because there had been so many complaints registered with the department against the practice. It is estimated that 3,000,000 penny pieces have been collected annually by the carriers in this way and there was bound to be more or less leakage in handling so many pieces of coin. The new rules will abolish the practice and hereafter stamps must be used on mail matter.

Announcement is made that W. H. Thompson, the well known Democratic attorney and politician of Grand Island, will file for United States senator on the Democratic ticket this fall. Mr. Thompson is a very strong and able man, an unswerving Democrat and a man whose sympathies are always with the people. Should he be chosen senator, Nebraska will have at least one man who will rank among the ablest in the upper house. Mr. Thompson has been before the people of Nebraska for many years and has been honored by his party with several nominations. It is to be hoped that if he is chosen as the Democratic candidate for senator, the party will rally to his support and see that a majority of the people vote for him.

Dr. D. K. Pearson, almost 90 years of age, a resident of Chicago and many times over a millionaire, announces that he intends to give away every cent of his vast millions. The doctor in announcing his intention to give his fortune away states that he had endowed forty-seven colleges and he intends to keep right on. He figures that he is going to live ten years longer and during that time he intends to have a royal time in giving. He finds it the most interesting and amusing thing in the world. The good doctor seems to be the right sort of a man and he makes his suggestions, he says, so that some of the other millionaires who have more money than they know what to do with, can do the same and enjoy their wealth.

The president announces that as soon as the supreme court has passed on the Standard oil and tobacco trust cases, he intends to follow up their lead by starting prosecution against some of the numerous "bad" trusts which inflict the country and that the prosecutions will be carried out to the bitter end. The attorney general's office has been engaged in collecting information as to the operations of these bodies and they will find a strutting mass of evidence piled up against them, so it is said. The public will await with considerable curiosity the outcome of this war upon the trusts and it hopes for some relief from the ruinous prices which now prevail the country over.

The great flood which has been threatening to overwhelm Paris shows no signs of abatement but as a matter of fact, it gains with each passing hour and the city is threatened with destruction. The fine bridges over the Seine are within a few inches of destruction and there seems no way to avert the disaster. The great buildings which line the stream are being undermined and seem destined to collapse and fall into the stream. The flood is said to present an awe-inspiring spectacle, the waters extending for miles over the city and the handsome buildings setting in a regular lake. All the available firemen, police and troops are being used to protect the fine bridges and save the buildings by keeping them free of debris. Factories throughout the affected territory have closed down and the greatest distress prevails. The loss of life has been very small, however, owing to the slowness of the rise of the waters and the steps which

had been taken to forestall the flood.

From Washington comes the news that the postal savings bank bill is coming out of hiding today and will be reported to the senate for passage. The president has been assured by the organization senators that the bill as drafted will pass that body and that there will be very little opposition to it in the house. The public will study the provisions of the bill very closely and it will undoubtedly be subject to considerable adverse comment should its provisions contain any "jokers" which many expect. That the postal savings bank will hurt the country banks is quite generally expected on account of taking the small deposits from them and depositing them in the government bank. There are a number of provisions of the bill which will be watched with a great deal of interest, one of which will be the ultimate disposition of the funds deposited in the bank. Whether these funds will find their way to New York and Wall street is something which the public will be interested in finding out.

Yesterday the tide which seemed setting toward the Unionists in the English elections, was checked and the Liberals held their own for the day. This leads to the belief that they will have a working majority after all and that they will be able to carry out their program as outlined. Liberal majorities have been reduced greatly but they still manage to hold onto most of their seats. The boroughs which showed strong Unionist gains, were in the counties where the worship of royalty and nobility prevailed. The combined Liberal labor and nationalist vote give that party a heavy majority but there are a number of nationalists who will not endorse the entire liberal program and also some laborites in the same boat.

Current report has it that John L. Sullivan is about to be married again. About one year ago he obtained a divorce from his wife whom he claimed deserted him twenty-five years ago and now it is said he is to marry an old time friend of his early youth. It is said a bridal stateroom has been engaged on a steamer for Europe to be on February 18. Sullivan who is showing at present through Ohio declined when asked about the matter, to make any statement for publication. The friends of the big "un" in Boston intend to give him a testimonial before the nuptials are celebrated and previous to his departure for Europe. Perhaps, no man in the pugilistic world has as many friends and admirers as Sullivan and none will enter upon matrimony with better wishes than he. He is getting well along in years now and has tamed down a whole lot from his former state so that he may make a pretty decent husband.

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D. S. West, the Nehawka banker, came up from his home last evening to look after business matters, returning to his home this morning. Mr. West paid the Journal a very pleasant call this morning and was warmly welcomed. He is one of the livest wires in his home city and a good business man.

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