

NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT.

Omaha, May 19, 1898.

You Don't Have To.

A deaf man wrote to us a while ago and said that he heard about how cheap we were selling goods. A blind man who did some trading with us wrote that he could see we were doing a straight business and giving good values. He said he was first told about us by a man who was dumb and had never spoken a word in his life. This is a great story, this Nebraska. The blind and the deaf and the dumb and the old and the young and sharp trader and simple trader all get the same treatment exactly and all agree that we are the greatest house in the world for selling stuff cheap. Do you know it? Haven't we told you about it often enough? How soon are you going to find out? We publish a little catalogue with samples of the goods we sell and the way we sell 'em, and we send them out into the cold world to be criticised and talked about and picked to pieces by everybody who gets hold of it, dealers and all. You don't have to send for this catalogue. You can worry along without it. All we want to say is that we have these catalogues and we aren't afraid to send 'em out.

Nebraska Clothing Co

OMAHA

TWO NATIONS COMPARED

(Continued from page 1.)

and write and 27 per cent of the population of Spain.

And to clinch the whole question the average height of the American man is 68.1 inches while that of the Spaniard is 65.5 inches.

The full story of Spain's downfall from the proudest and most powerful empire in the world to her present estate would form one of the most impressive and instructive histories of modern times. No historian has written it. Prescott in his Philip the Second, Motley in his Rise of the Dutch Republic, Washington Irving in his Granada have each told a chapter, but the complete account of Spain's decline and degradation is a theme that still awaits the careful and scientific pen of some Motley or Prescott of today. Three hundred and fifty years ago the King of Spain ruled over Spain, Austria, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Germany, part of Brazil, all of South America except Brazil, a large part of the East Indies, and nearly all of North America including this very Nebraska which has this week sent one regiment to the Philippines to take away the last Spanish possession in the East Indies and another to Cuba to finish taking away the last land held by Spain in the western world. The ruler of that splendid Spanish Empire matched himself against a monk named Martin Luther. The ruler had armies, navies, the wealth of the world and the lands of two hemispheres. The monk had a fearless spirit, a new truth and a printing press. Today the religious descendants of that monk are stripping the Kingdom of the East Indies, and nearly all of North America including this very Nebraska which has this week sent one regiment to the Philippines to take away the last Spanish possession in the East Indies and another to Cuba to finish taking away the last land held by Spain in the western world.

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It took seven hundred years of continuous fighting to establish the modern Spanish nation of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile in 1469 and the new period of Spanish glory begins with the discovery of America in 1492. The grandson of Ferdinand and Isabella was Charles the Fifth who ruled over the great world Empire already referred to. After him came Philip the Second who raised the greatest fleet and army that ever sailed to conquer England and make it a Spanish province. The pluck of Queen Elizabeth and our English forefathers together with the stormy seas of their island home prevented Philip from doing the job.

Philip the Second tried to prevent the people of Holland and Belgium from thinking for themselves on religious subjects. When the people there persisted in thinking for themselves just the same Philip tried to ram the orthodox way of thinking down their throats with fire and steel. This made the long-suffering Dutch rebel and finally win their independence after a forty years war. After Philip the Second died in 1597 his son Philip the Third was made King. This king was an imbecile—or in plain English—a natural born fool and his government being in the hands of priests and plunderers who made haste to finish the job of destroying the kingdom.

The causes which forced Spain's decline and fall were in operation long before Philip III went to the throne. They dated back to the days of Ferdinand and Isabella. Columbus' discovery, indeed of America in 1492 gave the new world to these monarchs' nation but Spain's moral and intellectual obligations and defects rendered the gift valueless. The most prominent of these causes were the inquisition and the religious persecutions and atrocities which it incited, the ignorance, imbecility and barbarity of most of Spain's rulers, and the habit which many of them had to bestow power on worthless and irresponsible favorites, the cruelty, insouciance and incapability of most of her officials in the colonies, and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

for Spain's downfall—the expulsion of the Moors—is often overlooked by writers in citing the reasons of that nation's ruin. The Moors were the scientists, the literateurs and the skilled mechanics and agriculturalists of Spain. The zealous Ferdinand, Isabella, the Philips and others—who had freed Spain from the presence of the infidel, robbed it of the element which had developed and diversified its intellectual and industrial activities, and which had given it a place among the great nations. When the Moors were forced out a gap was made in Spain's social and industrial system which has remained until this day. This is why there are only two classes—the rich, retrogressive and indolent, who constitute Spain's aristocracy, direct its politics and furnish officers for its armies, and the ignorant and shiftless peasants who do the country's menial work, who cultivate the soil with the implements of a dozen centuries ago, and who constitute the rank and file of Spain's soldiers. Except in a few cities and industrial centers there is an absence of that middle class comprising the artisans, the skilled workers in the various handicrafts, the skilled agriculturalists and the merchants who constitute the element of stability, conservatism and balance in great states.

When all these defects and delinquencies in Spanish character and society have been intelligently grasped the reason why Spain's magnificent physical heritage counted for nothing, and the causes of her swift and continuous fall among the nations became plain. By a bill of Pope Alexander VI, in 1493, Spain was granted all the land in the new world west of the Azores and the Cape Verde islands. Spain eventually got all the rest of South America, except Brazil, all of Central America and the West Indies, with Mexico, Florida and (by the French cession of 1763) nearly all of the United States which is west of the Mississippi river.

The effects of the follies and vices of the Spanish character began to reveal themselves in the height of her power and under the greatest of her rulers. Rovers came to the great Charles often in the closing years of his reign, and in despair he threw down the crown in 1556, retired to a monastery and died two years later.

All of Philip's successors, except Charles III and Alfonso XII, had most of these vices, with cowardice, hesitancy and incapability in addition, and nearly all of them put unworthy persons in charge of affairs and kept competent persons out. Philip had great war riors, Don Juan of Austria, Alva and others, and had capable statesmen.

Under Philip II's imbecile son, the third Philip, (1598-1621), the expulsion of the Moriscos and the thirty years' war, which started during that monarch's last days and ended in the reign of Philip IX (1621-1665), further weakened Spain. During the latter king's rule the Netherlands were lost to Spain forever; Portugal, which was subjected in Philip II's time (in 1581), regained its independence (1640); Naples and Sicily rose in rebellion and Spain lost three fleets in wars and was defeated successively by Dutch and French.

The ill luck continued during the days of Charles II (1685-1700). Spain was disastrously beaten again by France and her armies almost annihilated. The rule of the house of Hapsburg in Spain, which began with Charles I in 1551, ended with Charles II in 1700, and the sway of the Bourbon monarchs began in that year, and has continued with two short interruptions—from 1808 to 1814, when Joseph Bonaparte was on the Spanish throne, and from 1808 to 1875, when there was a succession of military dictatorships, the brief rule of Amadeus of Savoy and Margall's and Castelar's short-lived republic.

lution afterward, was among the British forces which captured Cuba's capital. The British gave Havana back to Spain at the end of the war in 1763. In the treaty of the same year, in which France gave up all her territory in North America, France gave Canada and her territory between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi to England and ceded all her domain west of the Mississippi to Spain. In Spain's other war against England and in alliance with France (1770-83), Spain and France endeavored to take Gibraltar from England, which England had wrested from Spain in 1704, but the allies were defeated. This conflict took place in the closing years of the war in which the American colonies secured their independence from England. Excepting as it thus indirectly aided the Americans during the closing part of their war for freedom, Spain was neutral through that struggle, although Spain's ally, France, assisted the Americans from the beginning of 1778 to the end of the war for independence at Cornwallis' capture on October 17, 1781. Spain, even under the comparatively enlightened Charles III, forswore a peril to Spanish rule in the new world through the rise of a great free nation to the east of the Mississippi and hence Charles resisted Louis XVI's persuasions in 1777 to assist the colonies in their war against Great Britain. Not that Charles hated England less, but the Americans more.

In 1800 Spain ceded back to France the territory of Louisiana, which she obtained from France in 1763, and France, through Bonaparte, sold Louisiana to the United States in 1803, to the lasting anger and grief of Spain, which had special reasons for keeping the United States from increasing its power.

In 1808 Napoleon Bonaparte's brother Joseph was put on the Spanish throne and held it until fate turned against the great Corsican in 1814. Then Ferdinand was restored and through many vicissitudes of fortune was titular king until 1833. It was during Joseph Bonaparte's usurpation that the risings began (in 1810) in all that was left of Spain's territory in America. These were continued when Ferdinand got back to power, and by 1825, when Peru's freedom was made secure, Spain had lost all her once imperial domain in the New World except Cuba, Porto Rico and a few other islands. Ferdinand's daughter, Isabella II (1833-68), who was defective mentally and morally as Ferdinand or Ferdinand's father, sent Spain to a still lower depth in weakness and degradation, but that country made a short rally in the reign of Isabella's son Alfonso XII (1875-85). Between the beginning of this century and the end of the third and latest Carlist war in 1876, Spain had thirty-nine revolts, rebellions or revolutions, usually incited by the mental and moral degradation of her monarchs.

AT THE SIGNAL OF WAR.

(From the Chicago Evening Post.)

It was 2 by the town clock which drowsed above the public square. Around the court house was arranged a mob of wagons, gigs, buggies and vehicles of various kinds. The soft spring wind fanned the dust of the little Illinois town. On the "common" a group of boys were playing "mumblepeg." The dingy walls of the court house loomed up among the tall, bare trees, which had as yet put forth no appreciable evidences of the season. The school house, a building of considerable pretensions, with a spacious yard for the play ground for its scholars, stood on the corner of an adjoining street of the public square and from the open windows came sometimes the sound of childish voices.

In the court house a case of great local celebrity was being tried, and the farmers from the country around were there in full force to listen to it. The streets were more than usually quiet, the interest of the town loafers being focused in the law suit and their lackluster faces thereby transferred to the court house benches. At the stores little business was apparent, two old ladies prying calico and a lank rustic buying a plug of chewing tobacco comprising the quota of purchasers. "Bill" Jepson was shoeing a horse in his blacksmith shop and the Serorgan boys were getting a box of merchandise into their drug store. Yet no one could help being impressed with the fact that it was a lazy day in town.

"Doc" Strode looked out of his office and noted that Uncle Tommy Needles had fallen asleep on the hotel porch and the bus was just being driven up from the livery stable preparatory to starting for the train to catch possible transients. A solitary drummer resplendent as to apparel, dignified the hotel office and yawningly looked at a yesterday's paper. "Doc" musingly picked up some papers lying on his desk and looked them over. They were enlistment blanks which had been filled out from time to time since the first whispers of war had been heard in the town. None of the names represented men over 20 years of age. Most of them were young fellows not more than 22 and 23. They were all familiar names to him. He flicked the ashes from his desk with an empty right sleeve and shifted his left hand into a firmer position.

War! Yes, war, would be a mighty tough thing if it came, but Illinois would forge to the front with her men the same as she did in '61. He had been proud of the way the boys had acted. It was the easiest thing in the world to get them to enlist. He had explained that war was the most serious thing on earth, and that it often meant death and seldom showered into glory. But the boys had simply said that if war was declared they were not only willing but glad to go. So he had gathered together his volunteer companies until the number had grown to over four hundred, and still the blanks were being filled out from day to day. And "Doc" was examining each applicant and every man on his list was strong and fit for hard-ship.

It was in the air. The very youngsters of the town were drilling and indulging in sham battles. Not altogether sham either, for some of these mimic encounters. There was the Evans guy, now. His leg might straighten out again, and it might not. Of course, storing breastworks was dangerous business, and when Tommy Evans mounted the parapet of old barrels and dry goods boxes the whole Spanish forces were on top of him in a minute. And the attacking army nearly killed several of the dons when

Tommy hollered that his leg was broken.

The doctor rose and went to the door. Down the street the fire company men were seated leisurely about the entrance to the engine house, reading, smoking and talking about the war. To the north and nearly to the other side of town the steam flouring mill sent up a steady stream of white vapor from a tall smokestack. The big bell in the near by tower hung listless in the April air.

All at once the bell on the flouring mill moved, rocked and began to ring. It was one of the usual signals of fire in the sleepy little town, and immediately the public square exhibited signs of excitement. Horses lifted their drooping ears and watched with mild curiosity the various evidences of a country town conflagration. The fire company with commendable alacrity came dashing by, and the small boys left their games and rushed after the engine with wild whoops of joy. Dogs barked and everybody on the streets anxiously asked where the fire was. Then the bell in the Baptist church steeple rang out so strongly and suddenly that everybody paused and looked at his neighbor questioning. Then the bell in the Methodist church answered sonorously, and finally all the bells in that quiet hamlet rang a stentorian message of iron significance that swept through the air vociferating in strident chorus, "War, war, war."

The fire engine hurried back to the engine house and put up their horses and ran the hose cart into its place. "Doc" Strode shut up shop and rushed down street toward the drug store. The judge adjourned court and the entire audience, witnesses, litigants and spectators poured excitedly into the streets. The gray haired judge mounted the steps of the court house and began to harangue the crowd. And from the ground and from the country roads came the volunteers. It seemed as if the sound of the bells had opened the gates of patriotism and that a million men were marching past. The volunteers gathered fast under the trees where the old judge's fiery words were echoing and there were tears on many cheeks as the boys lined up to listen to the eloquence of a man whose services on many a bloody field entitled him to respect in that hour.

"Doc" Strode was everywhere. He had the companies form in military precision and stand at attention. In the midst of the oration that came from the court house steps there came a sound of music. Away down the street, faintly at first, but growing clearer and clearer, came the shrill squeal of fife and challenging roll of drums. Then the blare of the brass instruments added to the volume and the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" rolled gladly along the streets, and a hundred flags blossomed from windows and roofs. On and on the band came, while cheers followed and almost drowned the music. Men with empty sleeves stood side by side with men whose first baptism of war was yet to be. Women mingled with the crowds, and the words of the venerable judge rose higher and higher and more vehemently as the enthusiasm waxed greater.

It seemed as if the entire country side had been sleeping on its arms, for from every road that led into town came the volunteers hurrying to join their comrades. Headed by the band the boys marched up and down the public square to the cheers of men and women and the waving of flags. The firemen marched with them, the citizens after the fire company and even the women and children, enthusiastic to the call to arms, followed the rest. All stores had been closed and flags were flying from every corner. On the liberty pole, where every 4th of July the "big" flag flew, a greater spread of stars and stripes than ever before seen was slowly being pulled up. The call for troops had been made and the question asked of the people, and gladly had the call been answered, and the answer of the people was "Yes."

And more than all else, deeper than the clang of iron bells and keener than the sound of piercing fife or resounding drum, was the voice of eternal Americanism speaking from the past: "I am the spirit of your fathers that walked with them at Valley Forge and fought with them at Concord and Bunker Hill. I saw the field at Cherubusco and San Jacinto. My presence graced the Alamo, and blue or grey I was known of men at Gettysburg and in the Wilderness. I stood with Custer on the knoll of the Little Big Horn, and my blood was given with Decatur and John Paul Jones to dye the salt seas. And with me will come the farmer and the artisan, the clerk and the scholar. And I will keep the heritage given me of old and with right and might hold fast the banner of liberty so loftily that all the world may see. E. M. G."

Swollen Neck

Also Had Great Difficulty With Her Heart—How Cured.

"My daughter had a swollen neck and also heart trouble. After the least exertion she would breathe so hard she could not hear all over the room. She could not sweep the floor or even move her arms without affecting her heart. Her limbs were badly bloated. Her father insisted that she must take Hood's Sarsaparilla, and we gave her about six bottles, when she was cured, and there has been no return of her ailments." Mrs. EMMA THOMAS, North Solon, Ohio.

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THE "INDEPENDENT"

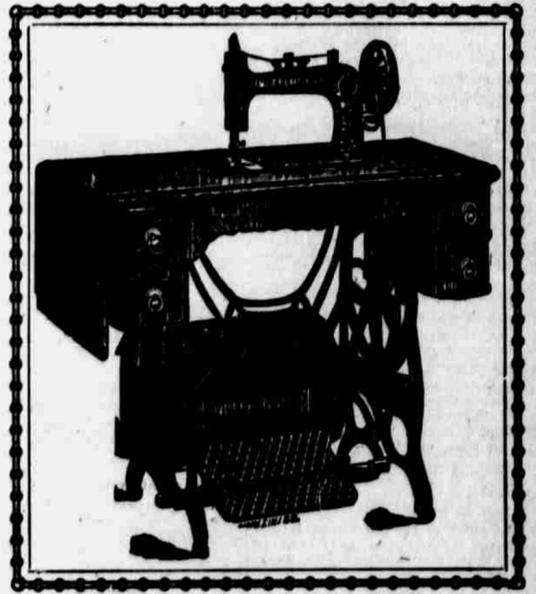
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NOISELESS, LIGHT RUNNING,

SELF-THREADING,

SEWING MACHINE.

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EVERY MACHINE WARRANTED.—A written warranty accompanies each Machine. All parts are interchangeable, and we can supply duplicates at any time. Each part of the Machine is fitted with such exactness that no trouble can arise with any part, as new pieces can be supplied with the assurance of a perfect fit.

Our "Independent" is a strictly high-grade Sewing Machine, and finished throughout in the best possible manner. It possesses all modern improvements, and its mechanical construction is such that in it are combined simplicity with great strength, thus insuring ease of running, durability, and making it impossible for the Machine to be put out of order. It sews fast and makes a perfect stitch with all kinds of thread and all classes of material. Always ready for use and unrivaled for speed, durability and quality of work.

Notice the following points of superiority. The HEAD swings on patent socket hinges, and is firmly held down by a thumb screw. It is strong, substantial, neat and handsome in design, and beautifully ornamented in gold. The bed plate has rounded corners and is inlaid or countersunk, making it flush with the top of the table. HIGHER ARM—The space under the arm is 5 1/2 inches high and 9 inches long. This will admit the largest skirts, even quilts. It is SELF-THREADING—There are absolutely no holes to put the thread through except the eye of the needle. THE SHUTTLE is cylinder, open on the end, entirely self-threading, easy to put in or take out; bobbin holds a large amount of thread. THE STITCH REGULATOR is on the bed of the Machine, beneath the bobbin winder, and has a scale showing the number of stitches to the inch, can be changed from 8 to 32 stitches to the inch. THE FEED is double and extends on both sides of the needle; never fails to take the goods through; never stops at seams; movement is positive; no springs to break and get out of order; can be raised and lowered at will. AUTOMATIC BOBBIN WINDER—An arrangement for filling the bobbin automatically and perfectly smooth without holding the thread. The Machine does not run while winding the bobbin. LIGHT RUNNING—The Machine is easy to run, does not fatigue the operator, makes little noise and sews rapidly. THE STITCH is a double-lock stitch, the same on both sides, will not unravel, and can be changed without stopping the Machine. THE TENSION is a flat spring tension and will admit thread from 8 to 150 spoolcotton without changing. Never gets out of order. THE NEEDLE is a straight, self-setting needle, flat on one side, and cannot be put in wrong. NEEDLE BAR is round, made of case-hardened steel, with oil cup at bottom to prevent oil from getting on the goods. ADJUSTABLE BEARINGS—All bearings are case-hardened steel and can be easily adjusted with a screwdriver. All lost motion can be taken up, and the Machine will last a life time. ATTACHMENTS—Each Machine is furnished with the following set of best steel attachments FREE: One Foot Hammer Feller, one Package of Needles, six Bobbins, one Wrench, one Screw Driver, one Shuttle Screw Driver, one Presser Foot, one Belt and Hook, one Oil Can filled with oil, one Gauge, one Gauge Screw, one Quilter, and one Instruction Book.

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