CURT COMMENT OF THE TIMES

Says the esteemed Lincoln Evening News: "The watchful person can accumulate lots of information in the course of a year or two. Did you ever hear of gumbo ballast for railroads. The Missouri Pacific is putting it down on its Kansas branches, and the railroad men claim that it is the finest stuff ever got for that purpose." Indeed the watchful person can accumulate a lot of information—provided he get away from his desk once in a while. If the esteemed News' editor would get further away from his office than the M street ball park occasionally he would accumulate more information about Nebraska. Then he would not have to go away down into Kansas to find a railroad burning gumbo for ballast, and wouldn't take up space explaining it. Bless his dear heart, gumbo ballast has been used for years by the Burlington in Nebraska—some of it within sight of the corner of Ninth and P streets. We advise the editor of the esteemed News to visit Table Rock and there see gumbo being burned by the train load for use as ballast. Burned gumbo ballast for railroads is as old as the airbrake, the safety coupler, the decapod, the platformless baggage car and the air signal in the engine cab.

The same newspaper authority informs us that "a good natured guffaw will go up all over Nebraska at the announcement by the Nebraska democrats on the congressional delegation that, come to think of it over, they are not in favor of free wool, but are willing to cut the duty in two." Will Maupin's Weekly opines that there will be no guffawing. On the contrary, it opines that there will be some lusty swearing. The most iniquitous section of the Payne-Aldrich tariff is the woolen schedule, "Schedule K." It ought to be knocked out, in toto. The democrat who votes against doing so is not representing his constituents. This talk about reducing the revenue too much is rot. Uncle Sam's credit is good, and he can stand going in the hole financially for awhile a whole lot better than several millions of us can stand it all the time. Guffaws? Curses!!

The wisest coroner in the world—or the most foolish—lives in New York. Relative of John McAneer found him unconscious and dying from a bullet wound in his head. John lived a couple of hours, but spoke no word. The coroner viewed the remains and then pronounced judgment to the effect that McAneer had dreamed he was battling with a burglar and shot himself in the head. Me mention this merely for the purpose of calling the incident to the attention of the Society of Psychical Research.

The more you study the supreme court's decision in the Standard Oil case the more you will realize that the supreme court handed the public a lemon and donated a juicy melon to the oil trust. The court deftly inserted into the law something that the big trusts would willingly have financed a national campaign to secure from congress, namely, "reasonably restrictive." Now a big trust can go right ahead with its work, and maybe at the end of a couple of generations it can be proved that it is "unreasonably restricting" competition.

Will Maupin's Weekly fears that a large number of its labor exchanges have, like itself, been rather premature in rejoicing over the supreme court's decision in the Gompers-Morrison-Mitchell contempt case. The decision, on second thought, is not a victory for organized labor. Quit the contrary. Instead of deciding that it was not legal to punish the descendants for contempt, it decided that it was legal, the only diffence being in the punishment. The supreme court held practically for the plaintiffs and against the defendants. But it was held that a jail sentence was not proper because of the fact that such punishment would not inure to the benefits of the plaintiffs. In other words, Judge Wright was within legal bounds when he punished for contempt, but not within legal bounds when he imposed jail sentence instead of imposing a fine, the same to be taken as damages by the plaintiffs. Instead of being a victory for organized labor, that decision was a blow on the point of the jaw.

Our Presbyterian friends have gravely decided to let "non-elect infants" continue to go to hell for another year. Far be it from us to indulge in theological discussion, but we have no hesitancy in declaring that any man, or church, or creed, that condemns innocent little children to eternal damnation, on any grounds, ought to be plunged therein so deep that a carrier pigeon couldn't get a message to them in eleven weeks of continuous flying.

Because he was detected in dealing from a deck containing five aces, Dick Sendi of Kittanning, Pa., grew wroth and slew four of his fellow players. The associated press account of the affray is very meagre but it seems that Sendi was accused of slipping in the fifth ace. We are not an authority on card games, but if we should be asked to decide in this case our decision would be based on the remark of an old poker player in the mining camp. A tenderfoot, looking on, whispered to the old miner: "That man just dealt himself an ace from the bottom." "Well, it's his deal, ain't it?" queried the old miner. Sendi being the dealer we hold that he had a right to resent objections filed against his method, but we fear he made his objections too emphatic.

Senator Lorimer is going to be investigated again. The Illinois legislature, after virtually declaring him guilty, passes the case up to the national congress. Lorimer has his faults, but ingratitude is not one of them. Therefore he will stick to the last in an effort to deliver the goods bought and paid for and delivered to him by "big business." Incidentally, the United States senate is on trial while this Lorimer investigation is in progress.

"Boss" Cox of Cincinnati has been turned loose by a complaisant judge. The indictment against him charging perjury was quashed on the flimsiest sort of a technicality. The worst feature of this miscarriage of justice is not that "Boss" Cox has been turned loose, but it gives added cause for reiteration of the charge that the courts are not what they should be. Cox testified before a Cincinnati grand jury and later was indicted for having perjured himself. Judge Dickson holds that in that in calling Cox before the grand jury and compelling him to testify, and then indicting him for perjury because of that testimony, was a violation of his constitutional rights. In other words, a man cited to appear before the grand jury may lie like a thief, and then his constitutional rights prevent his prosecution for perjury. Further, he may not again be indicted on the same alleged facts. We are trying mighty hard to retain our respect for the courts, but our opinion of some judges, if expressed on the printed page, would bar Will Maupin's Weekly from the United States mails.

Rev. Francis Brown, president of Union Theological Seminary, and Rev. William Adams Brown of the same institution, are charged with heresy. Both of the reverend gentlemen are charged with refusing to accept the biblical version of the birth of Christ and His actual bodily resurrection. Either the charge of heresy must stand or the whole structure of the Christian religion must fall. Christ either rose from the dead as He claimed, or He was the greatest charlatan of the ages. Either Christ was what He said He was, or He was a liar and a cheat—and a liar and cheat can not be a good man, let alone being a perfect man. If the Reverends Brown can not accept the miraculous conception and the bodily resurrection, they ought, in common decency, to resign their positions as instructors of youth seeking to become ministers of the gospel as preached by the Man of Nazareth. In this connection we are reminded of the bon mot of —was it Rabbi Wise?—who said: "There never was but one perfect Christian, and He was a Jew."

The Omaha World-Herald, a leader in good works, is now pushing a "fresh