A Postmaster's Joke.

Early in the season the writer had occasion to communicate with William Mercer, the former owner of Little Logan, and forwarded our inquiry to Hastings, Neb. In due time our letter was returned, marked thus: "Mr. Mercer is dead." Overlooking the fact, we again wrote this gentleman, and soon our letter was returned with the startling information that "Mr. Mercer is still dead."—American Sportsman.

March

April, May are the months in which to purify the blood, for at no other season is the body so susceptible to benefit from medicine. The peculiar purifying and reviving qualities of Hood's Sarsaparilla are just what is needed to expel disease and

Fortify the System

against the debilitating effects of mild weather. The blood at this season is loaded with impurities, which are promptly and thoroughly removed by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and strength, health, vigor and vitality succeed to weakness, debility, and that tired feeling. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures all diseases arising from or promoted by impure blood. Remember

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the Best Spring Medicine. C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

W.L. DOUGLAS $3 SHOE Best in the World.

For 18 years this shoe, by merit alone, has distanced all competitors.

Indorsed by over 1,000,000 wearers as the best in style, fit and durability of any shoe ever offered at $3.00.

It is made in all the latest shapes and styles and of every variety of leather.

One dealer in town given exclusive sale and advertised in local paper on receipt of reasonable order. Write for catalogue to W. L. Douglas, Brockton, Mass.

COMFORT TO CALIFORNIA.

Every Thursday afternoon a tourist sleeping car for Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles leaves Omaha and Lincoln via the Burlington Route.

It is carpeted, upholstered in rattan, has spring seats and backs and is provided with curtains, bedding, towels, soap, etc. An experienced excursion conductor and a uniformed Pullman porter accompany it through to the Pacific Coast.

While other cheaper cars are furnished, none are finer to look at or a pleasanter place to ride in. It is just as good to ride in the second class tickets are honored and the price of a berth, wide enough for two, is only $5.

For a folder giving full particulars write to

J. FRANCIS, Gen'l Pass'r Agent, Omaha, Neb.

Burlington Route

CURE YOURSELF! Use Big G for unnatural discharges, inflammations, irritations or ulcerations of mucous membranes. Painless, and not astringent or poisonous. Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper, by express, prepaid, for $1.00, 2 bottles, $2.75. Circular sent on request.

CURES in 1 to 5 days. Guaranteed not to stricture. Prevents contagion. THE EVANS CHEMICAL CO. CINCINNATI, O. U. S. A.

QUARTER OF CENTURY OLD.

CHEAP STRONG WATERPROOF. Not affected by gases. No RUST nor RATTLE. Outlasts tin or iron. A Durable Substitute for Plaster on walls. Water Proof Sheathing of same material, the best & cheapest in the market. Write for samples, etc. The FAY MANILLA ROOFING CO., CAMDEN, N. J.

The St. Joseph and Grand Island R. R. IS THE SHORTEST and QUICKEST LINE TO ALL POINTS NORTH WEST AND EAST SOUTH

And in connection with the Union Pacific System IS THE FAVORITE ROUTE To California, Oregon and all Western Points.

For information regarding rates, etc., call on or address any agent or S. M. ATSIT, Gen. Pass. Agt. M. F. ROBINSON, Jr., Gen'l Manager, St. Joseph, Mo.

"IT WILL NOT RUB OFF" ALABASTINE DURABLE AND BEAUTIFUL WALL COATING.

PATENTS, TRADE-MARKS: Examination and Advice as to Patentability of Invention. Send for Inventors' Guide, or How to Get a Patent. PATRICK O'FARRELL, Washington, D. C.

The Rocker Washer is warranted to wash 100 PIECES IN ONE HOUR, as clean as can be washed on the washboard. Write for prices and Descriptive Circ. ROCKER WASHER CO. Ft. Wayne, Ind.

ASTHMA CURED DR. TAFT'S ASTHMALENE Never Fails. Sent on trial. We will mail a trial bottle FREE. DR. TAFT BROS., 45 Elm St., Rochester, N. Y.

N. N. U. No. 430—11 York, Neb.

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS please say you saw the advertisement in this paper.

Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.

NEW CURRENCY PLAN

STUPENDOUS "GALL" OF THE NATIONAL BANKS.

Would Have the Government Go Pawnbroking for Their Benefit—A Financial Scheme that Beats Anything Yet Evolved.

Want Interest on Idle Money.

The national bankers, who were almost a unit for McKinley in the last presidential election, says the New York News, have a new scheme for supplying the country with a "sound currency," or, rather, it is an old scheme picked out of the cellar of financial rubbish and given a dusting and cleaning. Its central idea is the familiar one that the government shall "go out of the banking business" by undertaking to print all the currency the banks may want and giving it to them in exchange for interest bearing bonds whenever they can loan it to the people at a profit and taking it back when business is dull, and then paying them the interest on the bonds.

The scheme in this form has advantages, from the national bankers' standpoint, over the other one—that the notes of the banks shall replace the greenbacks entirely. In the first place it would put the government in the position of pawnbroker for the exclusive benefit of the banks. It would have to keep an indefinite amount of paper money always on hand to give to the banks whenever they want it on the bonds. They would only want it, as a matter of course, when they can loan it to others at much more than the interest that the bonds bear. Then, when the demand for it at high rates has passed, they wish to enjoy the privilege of returning it and getting the bonds back and collecting the interest on them.

The national bankers are a privileged class already, but the adoption of this "sound currency" scheme would make them the envy of all other monopolists that the country has to support. They would simply shoulder all their present risks of loss from dull business on the government. Starting out with so much capital, they would have to take no chances whatever on profits. The government—that is, the people—would have to pay them interest whenever they could not get more elsewhere. And when they could, why, it would have to stand behind them and give them all them notes in exchange for the bonds that they may ask for.

What would be thought of a proposal to pay the clothing manufacturers, for instance, interest on the capital they have put into coats which they cannot sell until next season? This is exactly the proposal of the national bankers. They want the people to pay them interest on their idle money until such time as they shall find employment for it.

The banks ought to be confined to their legitimate business of receiving and paying deposits and discounting notes and let the government attend to the issuing of paper currency as well as of gold and silver coins.

Keeping Up the Fight.

The Republican party seems to have adopted the tactics of Napoleon, who is credited with saying, "After a great battle the advantage is possessed by that army which first assumes the offensive."

The Republicans have begun in dead earnest the campaign of 1900. Their "sound currency" committee are offering to send plates of their literature to all publishers free of charge, and under date of Jan. 6 the Republican National Committee send out from their headquarters at Washington a circular letter to publishers in which they offer to send them Republican literature "prepared by members of the editorial staff employed in that important work during the late campaign."

The following extract from this circular is of especial significance: "We will be pleased to send you this matter if you desire it. You will be at liberty to make free use of it, without credit, in part or in full, or to utilize the facts and figures for editorial work as you see fit. Will you kindly let us know by return mail if you desire the matter, and if so your name will be placed on the mailing list, and it will be forwarded to you free of charge."

Hereafter, when the editorial columns of Republican country papers fairly bristle with long-winded articles that read like an old party platform, it will be understood that, instead of the editors having had a new head put on him, as some might suppose, he is simply passing off for his own the editorials furnished him free of expense by the Republican National Committee.

This committee still retain the same "editorial staff" they had during the campaign. They are continuing the same fight on educational lines which they began a year ago. They admit the insecurity of their position by the efforts they are putting forth to retain it. Their motto seems to be, "Eternal vigilance is the price of the gold standard."

And shall the opposition be caught napping? Will they relinquish the fight which scarcely brought them defeat? Will they relax their efforts when victory is little beyond their grasp? What are silver men and Populists doing to counteract the activity of the Republican party?—Joliet News.

Life Tenure Fraud.

One of the strangest arguments against life tenure is afforded by the records of the civil service commission. Ten applicants qualify and go on the eligible list for every one who goes into place. Seventy out of every 100 applicants, on the average, score the necessary percentage to make them eligible. It would be hard to construct a stronger argument against life tenure for the few with a "pull" to commission them than these figures afford.

It is a depreciation of our public intelligence and of the magnificent educational systems we tax ourselves to maintain to insist that only the few are qualified for the competent discharge of public duty. Worse still, it is a falsehood, easily disproved by any one who will go deep enough into the statistics of the civil service problem.—Exchange.

Bryan's Book, "The First Battle."

That wasn't a "Battle"—just fighting for fun—
Bryan had seized the enemy's gun—
Was chasing the traitors from sun to sun,
And drilling the hosts for the war to come—
The real hard "Battle" has not yet begun.

But 'tis going to come, and you and I
May see the day when it's fight or die!—
When a shout for silver will rend the sky—
Millions with ballots, and bread for their cry—
Will conquer the shylock and banish the spy!

* * * * * * *

In the year of our Lord just Nineteen Hundred,
Poverty reigned—a party had blundered—
A battle of ballots (loud-volleyed) thundered
(Revenge of millions whom Shylock plundered);
England, amazed, stood aghast and wondered
How her forces of gold were scattered and sundered.
—Edwin Beard.

Republicans Are Responsible.

In an editorial commenting on Mr. McKinley's expressed wish that the $50,000 which the inauguration committee purposed to spend on the ceremonies should be set aside for charity, the Kansas City Times says:

Just now the millions of dollars contributed by the slush funders, whose money was the main factor in McKinley's election, would remove all the pressing want and dire distress of the destitute and unemployed people in the United States during the continuance of the rigorous weather and leave enough surplus to pay for a dozen inaugural balls such as the impending one.

Major McKinley and such of his humane friends as have grown rich out of the class legislation and protective policy of the Republican party would do well while this fit of charity is on them to reflect on the long chain of causes which have made gaunt poverty, companioned by sickness, destitution, illness and hunger, stalk through the cities of the land, bringing death to many, suffering to thousands and causing the humiliation of receiving alms to make bitter the bread of other thousands of honest men and women, all too willing to work if the door of opportunity were not locked and barred against them.

The policy of protection, which enriches those who have much and impoverishes those who have little, upheld by Major McKinley and the cormorant trusts, monopolies and money grabbers who elected him, are responsible almost entirely for the conflagration of misery.

Plan to Deceive the Public.

The manner in which the Republicans will try to stave off action indefinitely on the financial question and give them further opportunities to fool the people is indicated in the bill passed by the Senate authorizing the President to appoint delegates to any international money conference that may be called, or to call one himself if he thinks it judicious to do so.

This means, of course, the expenditure of another nice sum for salaries for a number of eminent and high-priced lawyers and financiers for doing over again what has been done thrice before without securing any practical results. The last of these conferences was held in Brussels only four years ago. If the Republicans were sincere in their professed faith of international bimetallism, even they would not put forward this old, worn-out scheme of talking the matter all over again from the beginning. They would instead formulate some positive plan and act on it.

The Republicans in this Congress, and those who will be in the next, as well as those who will compose the McKinley administration, have no idea of accomplishing anything through another such conference as that which was called in the last months of Benjamin Harrison's occupancy of the White House. They have resolved on a do-nothing policy, but they want to deceive the public if possible into the belief that they are really trying to help silver by sending junketing delegates abroad once more to take part in useless palavers.—New York Times.

Money Question Will Not Down.

The people made the money question the issue, says the Kansas City Times, and the politicians were forced to take it up.

That issue is not settled. The 6,500,000 people who voted for Bryan do not feel that the verdict obtained by the combined influences of greed, corruption and fraud is a fair or a decisive one. They believe that a battle so nearly drawn as that fought last November has more of hope in it for bimetallism than discouragement.

The action of the Hanna committee in deciding to close its headquarters and not to agitate the currency question rather indorses this view of the situation than otherwise. It shows this continuous campaign threat of the Republicans to be a bluff. The action of Hanna's committee is powerless to remove the currency issue from politics. Whether it grinds out and distributes gold literature or not is of slight consequence to the final determination of the question.

The Republican party is on trial. If its single standard currency proves inoperative in bringing about the promised return to the prosperous conditions which obtained in the country when gold and silver shared equally the money functions of the country, the voters will make short work of them and their unsound currency views the first time they get a chance to go to the polls.

Outlook for Silver.

Exactly 50 of the 90 senators voted on the international money conference bill. Notwithstanding the fact that only five-ninths of the senate voted at all, yet the affirmative vote reached a majority of 2 of the whole body. The actual vote was 46 to 4.

The News has not placed a large amount of confidence in the international scheme. Three downright, unequivocal failures of an enterprise in rapid succession ought to convince most people of its impracticability. Though the vote of the senate was practically unanimous, the tenor of the debate showed that there was very little superstitious faith in the breast of anybody.

Senator Jones gave expression to the common feeling of the silver men when he said that the measure was permitted to go through so as to throw all responsibility upon the Republicans. During the coming four years the silver men have nothing to hope for unless it be through a conference with the nations. Yet they have their unanimous adherence, not because they believe in it, but because they wish to make sure of the one chance in a thousand that something profitable will come of it. The very unanimity of the vote shows the prevailing apathy on the subject. The whole business is mere partisan byplay, which the Democrats see no reason to interfere with.—Detroit News.

No Room for Silver Men.

The Republican senate of Minnesota ousted Frank Day from his seat, to which he had been elected by a large majority at an election undoubtedly fair. The offense was that Mr. Day was an avowed advocate of free coinage. If that is Minnesota's idea of doing business in the line of government, governors and other officials of surrounding states should pay no attention to any legal process from Minnesota which federal law does not compel them to honor.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

"Bryan Was Elected."

A prominent Republican of this county remarked to a Democrat Saturday: "Well, Bryan was elected." "How's that?" remarked the Democrat. "Why, haven't you seen it in the newspapers that Bryan is elected?" "No, I don't believe I noticed that," replied the Democrat. "Wasn't it predicted that if Bryan was elected there would be failures and business disasters all over the country? It's come, and Bryan must have been elected."—Carmi (Ill.) Courier.

The School Book Trust.

The American book company, which has a corner on the business of furnishing school books in the larger part of the United States, has a big lobby in every Western Legislature, where the question of publication by the State is under discussion this winter. A Populist should know enough to vote against the advice of a corporation lobbyist.

The Difference.

Let a robber break into a bank and steal and the whole town is in arms to kill the scoundrel, but let a banker rob depositors of their hard-earned savings and the police stand guard to protect him from an outraged public. No crime to murder the poor by slow starvation; that's the Dime Savings Bank process.—Chicago Express.

Gold Bonds Illegal.

The Supreme Court of Nebraska has affirmed the decision of the lower court in the case where the city of Lincoln was enjoined from the issue of bonds containing the clause "payable in gold." When the bonds were voted the proposition submitted did not contain the gold clause, hence the illegality of bonds so issued.

Reform Notes.

There has been a great diminution of civil service enthusiasm in the Republican party since November.

The Washington Post, looking over our broad domain, and perceiving so many gold Democrats acting as receivers for collapsed banks, concludes that bolting sometimes pays.

It is said that in Machias, Me., a dozen eggs can be exchanged for a barrel of apples, while in Dallas, Texas, the exchange value is half a dozen apples for a dozen of eggs. The profits in making the exchanges go into the pockets of railway corporations.

The new McKinley tariff will accomplish the unprecedented feat of increasing the imports to provide additional revenue, and at the same time decreasing imports so as to protect the manufacturers. Or, at least, that is what the advance agents promise.

It is reported from Washington that the work of preparing the new tariff bill is not confined to the House Ways and Means Committee. Senators are interesting themselves. The bounty grabbers are also to be added to the combination which is pushing it along.

It is said that some of the silver Senators will vote for McKinley protection because they are satisfied that it will not improve our condition, and that the people will then all see the necessity of bimetallism. This is rather a costly experiment, but it may prove effective.

Mr. Hanna and his lieutenants ought to have become convinced by experience that it is beyond the power of politicians or political cliques to raise issues or to remove or dispose of them at will when once they have been raised. The making of public issues is done by the people.

Sixty-four Years of Service.

Christian Smith, aged 85 years, who resides at Keep Trust, near Cumberland is the oldest railroad employe in the United States, both in point of service and age, and is said to be the oldest locomotive engineer in the country. He ran the first engine into the historic town of Harper's Ferry. He began work for the Baltimore & Ohio railroad in 1832 as a teamster, hauling freight with six horses, there being no locomotives in use at that time and the quaint-looking cars were pulled by horses.

Weak bilious or costive eat a Cascaret, candy cathartic; cure guaranteed; 10, 25c.

An essential oil obtained by distillation of the leaves or needles has medicinal virtues attributed to it by some German practitioners.

THAT SPLENDID COFFEE.

Mr. Goodman, Williams County, Ill., writes us: "From one package Salzer's German Coffee Berry I grew 300 pounds of better coffee than I can buy in stores at 30 cents a pound."

A package of this and big seed catalogue is sent you by John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., upon receipt of 15 stamps and this notice. C. N.

The fault finder would growl about the weather if it were raining money.

A SOLDIER.

From the Sentinel, Cherokee, Kansas.

J. M. Baird, a Union war veteran, and commander of Shiloh Post, No. 56, G. A. R., Cherokee, Kansas, made the following statement to a reporter on August 31st, 1896:

"For about three years I have suffered intensely from rheumatism, and during that time I have tried various remedies and was treated by several able physicians but without result. Last spring Rev. J. B. Wiles advised me to try Pink Pills as he said they had cured a bad case of rheumatism for him and some of his relatives. I was so impressed with Mr. Wiles' enthusiastic praise of Pink Pills that I decided to try a box, and the result is all that the most exacting could wish, for before I had taken two boxes of the pills I was completely cured, and I feel better now than I have for several years.

"My wife," continued Mr. Baird, "was badly afflicted with neuralgia in the breast with frequent smothering spells. One box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills effected a complete cure in her case. I attribute my cure and that of my wife solely to Pink Pills and have no hesitancy in recommending them to the afflicted."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain, in a condensed form, all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are an unfailing specific for such diseases as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous headache, the after effect of la grippe, palpitation of the heart, pale and sallow complexion, all forms of weakness either in male or female. Pink Pills are sold by all dealers, or will be sent post paid on receipt of price, 50 cents a box, or six boxes for $2.50 (they are never sold in bulk or by the 100)—by addressing Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

Nine out of ten of your troubles are due to talking too much.

Cascarets stimulate liver, kidneys and bowels. Never sicken, weaken or gripe. 10c.

A big man in a little world is as much out of place as a little man in a big one.

Fashion Notes.

Royal purple, greens and blues are in high vogue.

Amethyst bordering on heliotrope is the newest shade in millinery.

Two toned violets are all the rage, purple blending into blue and green.

Modistes are making a new style of under skirt to wear with spring costumes and toilets.

There is quite a fad for wearing violets—especially violets made from pink silk or pink velvet.

$1.00 FOR 14 CENTS.

Millions now plant Salzer's seeds, but millions more should; hence offer.

1 pkg. Bismarck Cucumber.....15c
1 pkg. Round Globe Beet.....10c
1 pkg. Earliest Carrot.....10c
1 pkg. Kaiser Wilhelm Lettuce.....15c
1 pkg. Earliest Melon.....10c
1 pkg. Giant Yellow Onion.....15c
1 pkg. 14-Day Radish.....10c
3 pkgs. Brilliant Flower Seeds.....15c

Now all of above 10 packages, including our mammoth plant and seed catalogue, are mailed you free upon receipt of only 14 cents' postage.

25 pkgs. Earliest Vegetable Seed.$1.00
21 Brilliant Blooming Plants.....$1.00

John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis. C. N. U.

Hall's Hair Renewer cures dandruff and scalp affections; also all cases of baldness where the glands which feed the roots of the hair are not closed up.

The world is full of blind Sampsons, who spend their lives grinding in a mill.

Just try a 10c box of Cascarets, candy cathartic, the best liver and bowel regulator made.

The man who keeps a bulldog should not talk very much in church.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c. a bottle.

The great men of today show us what all men may be by and by.

I believe my prompt use of Piso's Cure prevented quick consumption.—Mrs. Lucy Wallace, Marquette, Kans., Dec. 12, '95.

No man is strong whose character has not stood the test of many trials.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address,

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Give until you feel it and you will feel more like living that you did before.

No-to-Bac for Fifty Cents.

Over 400,000 cured. Why not let No-to-Bac regulate or remove your desire for tobacco? Saves money, makes health and manhood. Cure guaranteed. See ad. or get all druggists.

Will it? That's not the question is why don't you use **St. Jacobs Oil** For **Rheumatism** It will cure it; that's fixed and certain.

CANDY CATHARTIC Cascarets CURE CONSTIPATION REGULATE THE LIVER 10¢ 25¢ 50¢ ALL DRUGGISTS ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED to cure any case of constipation. Cascarets are the Ideal Laxative, never grip or gripe, but cause easy natural results. Sample and booklet free. Ad. STERLING REMEDY CO., Chicago, Montreal, Can., or New York. 211.

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but have sold direct to the consumer for 24 years, at wholesale prices, saving them the dealers' profits. Ship anywhere for examination before sale. Everything warranted. 100 styles of Carriages, 65 styles of Harness. Top Buggies as low as $35. Phaetons as low as $55. Spring Wagons, Road Wagons, etc. Send for large, free Catalogue.

No. 2174. Surrey Harness—Price $55.00. As good as sells for $75.00.

No. 606. Surrey—Price with curtains, lamps, sunshade, apron and fenders, $60. As good as sells for $90.

ELKHART CARRIAGE AND HARNESS MFG. CO., W. B. PRATT, Sec'y, ELKHART, IND.

"He that Works Easily Works Successfully." 'Tis Very Easy to Clean House With

SAPOLIO

PISO'S CURE For Consumption

For the last 20 years we have kept Piso's Cure for Consumption in stock, and would sooner think a groceryman could get along without sugar in his store than we could without Piso's Cure. It is a sure seller.—RAVEN & CO., Druggists, Ceresco, Michigan, September 2, 1896.