

NEWS BOILED DOWN.

WHISPERINGS OF THE WIRE IN FEW WORDS.

Miscellaneous News Notes Gathered From This and Other Countries—Accidental, Criminal, Political, Social and Otherwise—Crisp Condensations From All Quarters.

Monday, March 14.

The United States will have ten new ships built within seven months.

Congressman Mercer of Nebraska will be a candidate for re-election.

The burned Deadwood & Delaware smelter will be rebuilt immediately.

Several hundred extra men are employed in the Brooklyn navy yard rushing work on war ships.

A counterfeiting plant has been discovered within the walls of the California state prison.

Russia will spend \$75,000,000 in strengthening her navy.

At Rockledge, Fla., Peter C. Tomson of Philadelphia, an importer and manufacturer, aged 78 years, has died. He was the originator of Tomson's coffee essence.

The will of the late Amos R. Eno, proprietor of the Fifth Avenue hotel, New York, has been filed for probate at Hartford, Conn., and disposes of an estate valued at \$29,000,000.

The British first class cruiser Edgar has been ordered to Manila. It is believed this is due to further activity upon the part of the insurgents in the Philippine islands.

Tuesday, March 15.

Prof. W. Keen, who formerly resided in the United States, drowned himself at Frankfort-on-the-Maine.

M. J. Walter Blandford, private secretary to Attorney General Griggs, died in Washington yesterday.

There is activity at the Washington navy yard, three shifts of men working twenty-four hours continuously.

France, it is said, intends to occupy Lei Chau in the Quan Tung peninsula north of Hai Nan, as a naval base.

Josef Hoffman, the young pianist, gave his second recital in Carnegie hall, New York, 5,000 being in attendance.

The Empire Transportation company will operate steamers this summer between Seattle and Dawson, via St. Michaels.

Jack McClelland and "Yock" Heninger, lightweight pugilists, fought thirty-five rounds on a boat in the Ohio river, near Shannopin, Pa., to a draw.

The war office, the London Daily Mail announces, has issued 100 rounds of ball cartridges to every volunteer in the kingdom in addition to the ordinary provision.

A magnificent gift of \$1,100,000 has just been received by Columbia university, New York city, from Joseph Florimond Loubat, the Duc de Loubat, as a foundation for a library.

Negotiations are pending for the purchase of the Brazilian cruiser Amazon and its sister ship, the Barroso, by the United States, but so far as the navy department is advised, have not yet been closed.

The house committee on the election of president, vice-president and representatives in congress favorably reported to the house the joint resolution amending the constitution providing for the election of members of the house of representatives for terms of four years.

The senate committee on immigration reported adversely on A. V. Powderly to be commissioner of immigration. Chandler united with the democratic senators to secure an adverse report. It is believed the report will be made the basis of a protracted controversy in the senate.

Wednesday, March 16.

John Shore, one of the most famous detectives in Europe, is dead in London.

Captain John Dennesson, the pioneer shipbuilder, died at Green Bay, Wis., aged 86 years.

Dr. Young J. Altst, the missionary to China, is at San Francisco on his way to Baltimore.

Adam Doll, aged 70 years, a wealthy resident of Whitestar, L. I., committed suicide by shooting.

Zacharie Topilus, the Swedish poet, historian and litterateur, is dead at Helsingford, Finland, aged 80 years.

The Arizona Press association has adopted a resolution for the recognition of Cuban belligerency by the United States.

The United States supreme court dismissed the case of Joseph P. Merrill, Bowdoin college, for want of jurisdiction.

Senator Domingo Gana, the Brazilian minister at Washington, has been appointed minister plenipotentiary to the court of St. James.

The town of Ambonia, capital of Ambonia island, one of the Malacca group, has been swallowed up by an earthquake, entailing great loss of life.

The agrarian revolt in Hungary is spreading. In a conflict between the peasants and gendarmie at Buna Foldvar two peasants were killed and forty wounded.

Senator Hoar introduced a bill prohibiting the importation into the United States of birds or their feathers for ornamental purposes, and imposing a fine of \$50 for each offense.

As a result of a conference of Secretary Long, the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock company, Collins P. Huntington will build a mammoth dry dock at Newport News, Va.

A grant club has been organized at San Domingo, Cal., with Simon Ley president and L. N. Ward secretary, to promote the candidacy of U. S. Grant as United States senator.

The Baldwin locomotive works just week booked an order for fifteen locomotives for the Egyptian state railway. They are to be heavy mogul freight engines and will be shipped early in May.

Thursday, March 17.

The remains of Mrs. Senator Thurston will arrive in Omaha on the 19th. There is a growing sentiment in favor of early adjournment of congress.

Sir Henry Bessemer, the celebrated inventor of Bessemer steel, died in London.

The remains of General Beverens will be consigned to the grave today at Los Angeles, California.

Distillers in Ohio and Kentucky contemplate forming a larger trust than has ever been attempted before.

Princess Louise, of Belgium, on account of whom her husband recently fought a duel with an aide-de-camp is reported missing.

There will be two state elections in Texas this year, the one to elect state officers and one to vote on constitutional amendments.

Fifty-seven people, including two women, started for Cincinnati over the Big Four with through tickets to the Klondike region.

A draft for thirty-three men for the Columbia and Minneapolis, at League Island, was sent off from the Brooklyn navy yard. They were taken off by a navy tug and sent to Jersey City.

The Fourth National bank of Philadelphia has \$35,000 in gold engaged for import. This makes the total of the present engagements by all importers \$21,825,000.

The Missouri Immigration Association, of Lamar, has ordered 100,000 mammoth cornstalk cases for distribution at the Omaha exposition as an advertisement of the Southwest Missouri.

About April 15 every postoffice and every postal clerk will be required for thirty-five days to weigh every parcel of mail to determine the basis from which the railroads west of the Missouri river shall be paid for the next four years.

The house committee on coinage, weights and measures reported favorably the bill authorizing the coinage of subsidiary silver coin from silver bullion purchased under the Sherman act and also the recoining of damaged or worn subsidiary coin now in the treasury. A minority report was submitted by Messrs. Bland, Maxwell, Ridgely, Cooper and Cochran.

Friday, March 18.

A favorable issue of the Anglo-French Niger conference is imminent.

Negotiations as to Port Arthur have been definitely transferred to Pekin.

The steamer Trave left Southampton for New York with \$399,000,000 in gold aboard.

William F. White, passenger traffic manager of the Santa Fe railroad, is dead at Chicago.

People's Safety bank was robbed of \$5,000 at Mount Pleasant, Mich. Duplicate keys were used.

There is one more prospect that the Grand Island beet sugar factory will be in operation this year.

President Sam Thomas of the Monon road says the report that he is about to resign is untrue.

Perry Belmont has placed at the disposal of the government his yacht Satauta in the event of war.

Straits of Mackinac are clear of ice to a point four miles above Cheboygan. Everything is clear eastward.

The British house of commons rejected a bill providing for the establishment of a court of criminal appeal.

Count De Cascellane has challenged for the French cup and will build a yacht for the purpose of contesting for that trophy.

Frost did serious damage to the fruit industry of California. In some sections the apricot, peach and almond crops are ruined.

The colonial convention at Melbourne has adopted the federation bill and adjourned. It now goes to the various legislatures of Australia.

Governor Russell has informed President McKinley in reply to a request that North Carolina could furnish 245,000 troops in case of hostilities.

A club is being formed in San Diego with the avowed purpose of furthering the candidacy of Ulysses S. Grant for the United States senator.

Saturday, March 19.

T. Estrada Palma of the Cuban junta-dee that the Cubans contemplate invading Porto Rico.

The Ellsworth newspaper libel bill was re-committed to the New York senate committee, practically killing it.

Spanish residents have sent threats to the mayor of Laredo, Tex., threatening to blow up the city with dynamite.

Frank J. Gould of New York, son of the late Jay Gould, has bought Le Prince, the celebrated \$10,000 St. Bernard dog.

Canadian Pacific earnings for the week ending March 14 were \$192,000; same period last year, \$221,000; increase, \$165,000.

Investigation at Athens shows there is no truth in the report in circulation saying the United States has purchased some of the Greek warships.

Company B of the Fifth United States infantry, stationed at Fort McPherson, near Atlanta, Ga., has been ordered by Secretary Long to report at St. Augustine, Fla.

At Galveston, Tex., in the United States court five Chinamen have been adjudged to be in the United States contrary to the provisions of the Gary act and ordered deported.

Governor Scofield of Wisconsin has fixed June 1 as the day when shall be celebrated at Madison the semi-centennial of the taking of the oath of office by state officers.

Miss Frances Grier of Lancaster, Ky., daughter of Adjutant General Collier has accepted Governor Bradley's appointment as maid of honor at the christening of the battleship Kentucky.

NO ADVANCE REPORT.

THE COURT'S FINDINGS WILL BE SENT IN FULL.

The War and Navy Departments as Active as Ever in Preparing for the Future—Torpedo Boat Destroyers are Needed—Expenditure on Works of Fortifications.

A Full Report is Coming.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The president does not expect anything in the nature of a preliminary report from the court of inquiry into the case of the Maine disaster. On the contrary, his expectation is that the report when it comes will be complete in all respects, although following the usual course, it is within the power of the secretary of the navy to order the body to continue its investigation along certain lines should he believe further information is desirable.

No official notice of the stoppage of the Spanish torpedo boat flotilla at the Canary Islands, and their turning back from that point, has reached our government as yet, so that any assumption that the movements of that flotilla have influenced the navy department to withdraw the fleet at Key West is said to be without basis of fact. The navy department in no manner has suspended its efforts to obtain possession of desirable warships abroad and in no direction is there visible any relaxation of the steadily pursued purpose of the navy and war departments to provide for the defense of the country against hostile attack. The formation of the new squad on at Hampton Roads is in itself one of the latest manifestations of activity in this direction, being the outcome of the deliberations of the strategy board, which has been sitting almost daily at the navy department for some time past.

Another conclusion of the board, which it is desired to put in force as soon as possible, is that the navy must be reinforced by a number of torpedo boat destroyers, and not torpedo boats. These are vessels of about 300 tons displacement, and able to keep the sea almost as well as a cruiser. With the enormous speed of thirty knots per hour, and an offensive armament of quick firing guns equal to the average gunboat, it is said that the power of such craft is certainly very great and perhaps that may prove to be the ideal naval craft. One distinguished naval officer, an expert in ordnance matters, expressed the opinion today that two such torpedo boat destroyers might annihilate the biggest battleship in the world, if they stood ready to run the risk of being sunk themselves. All that would be necessary for them to do, he said, would be to hold the battleship in sight during the daylight hours, which they could do easily, owing to their superior speed, and when darkness had come to attack the battleship from opposite directions simultaneously at full speed with torpedoes.

Such considerations as these have influenced the policy of the board to recommend the procurement of as many of these boats as possible, and as soon as possible. So far the department has been unable to buy any abroad, and while four torpedo boats of the larger class of thirty knots speed, almost equal to the Destroyer type, are building in this country, they cannot be completed for many months to come.

The representative of one of the largest English torpedo boat firms now in Washington criticised our government today as having been too narrow minded in allotting money for such boats.

Serker Hawley of Connecticut called at the navy and war departments this morning with Thomas F. Rowland, whom he introduced to the officials as the builder of the first monitor on the Ericsson plan. He recalled the fact that the vessel was an experimental one, and he had to overcome the opposition of the naval officials, owing to the radical departure from established ideas.

The war department has made another allotment for the engineering branch of the service. This consisted of \$2,975,000, and was charged against the special appropriation of \$59,000,000 made last week. It was stated at the department that the money would be expended in carrying out the plans for the fortification of the coast already perfected, and announced in the last annual report of the chief of engineers. No new fortification will be established from this appropriation.

Steps have been taken by the engineer's office for the expenditure of the \$5,000,000 originally allotted out of the \$50,000,000 defense fund for the continuation of the improvement of various works of fortifications. Practically all of it will be devoted to the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. While the expenditure will be under the general supervision of the engineer's office at Washington, the details connected therewith, including the letting of contracts, etc., will be left to the decision of the local engineer officials.

Both Sides Prepare Briefs.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—By arrangement between the parties, Sir Julian Pauncefote for Great Britain and Senor Andrade for Venezuela, the cases relative to boundary arbitration prepared by counsel on either side have been exchanged. The documents will be forwarded to their respective governments by the ambassador and the minister to serve as a basis for the counter cases to be exchanged later on and to prepare the way for the arbitrators to meet in Paris next fall.

Mounting the Big Guns.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., March 19.—Work on the fortifications at Ballast point is being pushed with all possible speed by the men of Battery D. Orders have been received not to permit any one to land on the government reservation where the big guns are to be mounted. The men under command of Captain Humphreys have been building a torpedo magazine within 100 feet of the quarantine station. The movement south of Ballast point battery is ready for the electricians.

BEYOND DESCRIPTION.

What Senator Gallagher Says of the Wretched Affairs in Cuba. Decision Lies With Spain.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Senator Gallagher was at the capitol yesterday for the first time since his return from Cuba. When requested to make a statement as to his observations on the condition of affairs on that island, he responded: "You can sign my name to any picture you may draw of utter wretchedness, destitution and hellishness in that country. The condition of affairs, so far as I had an opportunity to observe it, and I was only in Havana and Matanzas, is simply indescribable. I had not expected to find it half as bad as it is, and I do not believe that any one who simply reads the accounts and does not see for himself can form an adequate idea of the situation. The recent trades are wedged into all available places in those cities and are perishing by the thousands for want of the commonest necessities of life. The best information obtainable leads to the conclusion that there have been beyond a doubt 400,000 deaths as a result of Spain's brutal policy and the tragedy goes on from day to day. The Society of the Red Cross is furnishing some relief by its efforts, but most of the people are beyond the reach of aid, either through medicine or food. The mortality in Matanzas for the last four months previous to our visit has been equal to ten times the ordinary death rate.

"With reference to the military aspect of affairs in Cuba, I saw nothing which impressed me with the idea that Spain knows much about modern warfare. The soldiers I saw are now drilled as our soldiers are. Indeed, they lack every element of soldierly bearing, whatever may be said of their merits as fighters. The drills that I witnessed were a travesty on military ideas. While they were undergoing their evolutions, the soldiers were talking to each other and smoking as freely and unconcernedly as they would do in their mess rooms. From my observation of them I should not consider them very formidable antagonists on the field of battle.

"Naturally there is much talk about the Maine disaster, and so far as I could ascertain from my conversation with Americans and with those not entirely under the influence of the Spaniards, the opinion was universal that the Maine had been destroyed by an external agency, and almost every person with whom I discussed the subject in Cuba expects that the findings of the American court of inquiry will substantiate this view.

"There is a divergence of opinion on the island as to the probabilities of war between Spain and the United States, but I am sure that I am within the bounds of the truth when I say that almost the entire native population would welcome any turn of events, however tragic, that would wrest Cuba from Spanish dominion. This is true, not only of those who are avowedly favorable to war for independence, but of many of those who are ranked as Spanish sympathizers, but who are at heart in favor of Cuban independence. Even in Havana the allegiance to Spain is of a very weak and doubtful character, and if war should come, it would be found that there would be an uprising in that city against the mother country which would be a most important factor in shortening the contest and deciding it against Spain.

DENIAL BY WEYLER.

Weyler Says He Did Not Write the Letter Attributed to Him.

MADRID, March 19.—General Weyler denies the authenticity of the letter published in the New York Journal in which the former captain general of Cuba is alleged to have said the United States would not have dared to send a warship to Havana while he was in command there, as "they knew the terrible punishment that awaited them," adding that he had Havana harbor "well prepared for such an emergency," having "rapidly finished the work that Martinez Campos carelessly abandoned."

HAVANA, March 19.—Last night a correspondent saw Don Francisco de los Santos Guzman, to whom General Weyler is alleged to have written a letter published in the New York Journal yesterday, apparently suggesting the destruction of the United States battleship Maine. The former president of the Cortes was much surprised when asked if he had received such a letter from General Weyler, and for that reason it is impossible for anyone to have stolen such a letter of such a letter and consequently of its alleged contents.

Senor Francisco Diaz, the reporter of the Union Constitutional, who is said to have given a copy of the alleged letter to a Journal correspondent at Havana, was even more surprised when questioned on the subject. He said: "It is the first time I have heard of such a letter from General Weyler or from anyone else. This being true, of course I could not have given the alleged copy to any one."

President Plants a Tree.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—President McKinley today planted an oak tree in the White House grounds, re-establishing a custom begun a good many years ago, but broken by President Cleveland. The tree planted is a small scarlet leaf, or red oak. The president shoveled the dirt in, the hole after placing the sapling. There was no ceremony, although the fact was witnessed by a number of people.

Telegraph Lines in Fortifications.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Further plans to make perfect the means of communication between the defenses of New York have been made. Within a day or two it is probable that a contract will be let for laying a large cable of the size used in the ocean, between all the local fortifications. This plan to connect all the forts surrounding New York City with Governor's Island was one of the matters to which Major General Nelson A. Miles gave his attention on his tour of inspection in New York.

WORD FROM OXNARD.

EXPLAINS REGARDING THE HAWAIIAN CLAUSE.

Why He Concluded to Withdraw It in the Interest of Beet Sugar Culture—As to the Present Contract With Nebraska Farmers—Mr. Oxnard Not Satisfied With Some Arrangements.

Letter From Mr. Oxnard.

The following letter from Henry F. Oxnard to the editor of the Omaha Bee explains the reasons for the withdrawal of the Hawaiian clause in the sugar beet contracts with Nebraska farmers:

NEW YORK, March 15.—To the Editor of the Bee: We decided yesterday, after careful investigation at Washington, to withdraw the Hawaiian clause in our present contract with farmers. This was done because we feel convinced that Hawaiian annexation cannot be accomplished at this session of congress. We know very well that the annexation of the islands will reduce the price of sugar, and, consequently, with a reduced price for sugar, we cannot afford to pay as high a price for the beets, and if the question of Hawaiian annexation comes up at the next session of congress, we will insert a clause worded a little differently than the last one, whereby we will reduce the price of beets about 40 cents per ton for every 1/4 cent that sugar drops, taking as an average the price of sugar during the two seasons. If, as some say, that the annexation will not affect the beet sugar industry, they can certainly have no objection to such a clause, and if, as we know, the industry will be seriously affected, we will have taken all necessary precaution to guard our interests.

The present contract, which we offer for the farmers of Nebraska gives them on an average about 30 cents more per ton than they received last year. At the outset, our contract was worded, giving us the absolute right to reject all beets of a quality which we deemed unfit to manufacture into sugar, namely: All beets below 12 sugar and 80 purity. We do not want this low quality of beets, as they cannot be manufactured profitably into sugar, and would be only too glad if the farmers would keep these low grades and feed them to their cattle, but we do say as a favor to the farmers that if they cannot feed them, we will be willing to accept them at a reduced price. As far as I can see, this is the only question in dispute between the farmers and ourselves. They want us to accept any beets they see fit to supply us with whether they can be manufactured into sugar profitably or not. The principle, if we are to yield to it, would mean the closing of both our factories in a short time. It seems absurd to me to hear people who know nothing about the requirements of the industry, attempting to tell us what we should do. These people cannot convince us against facts which we know, and all the talk which I have seen in the newspapers for the last month or two, convinces me in my belief that "a little knowledge is a bad thing," and may account for the reason why during seven years Nebraska has had only two beet sugar factories in operation.

Very truly yours,
HENRY F. OXNARD.

Meeting of Editors.

Following is the program for the Northeast Nebraska Editorial association, which meets at Emerson, April 22: Address, President A. J. Watson, Coleridge Blade; paper, "Strictly in Advance, Cash Subscription Plan," A. J. Langer, West Point Republican; general discussion led by W. S. Goldie, Wayne Democrat; paper, "Patents," A. P. Childs, Madison Reporter; general discussion, Eugene Hess, Ponca Journal; paper, "The Editorial Page," E. Cunningham, Wayne Republican; general discussion led by E. B. Wilbur, South Sioux City Argus; paper, "Postal Laws Relating to the Newspapers," M. W. Murray, Pender Times; general discussion, E. E. Carter, Lyons Sun; paper, "Nonpartisan Newspapers," E. E. Shackelford, Allen News; general discussion, J. W. Huntsberger, Pender Republic; paper, "Legal Rates," Phil Sprenger, Norfolk Journal; general discussion, E. J. Eames, Newcastle Times; paper, "The Free List," J. C. Ecker, Dixon Tribune; general discussion, M. M. Warner, Lyons Mirror.

Target Practice.

Adjutant General Barry of the Nebraska National Guard has issued a general order relating to the season of target practice which commences April 1 and ends November 15. Arrangements have been made for a contest of the marksmen during the state encampment, two contestants to be selected by the captain of each company, others to be selected from the staff. There will be prizes for the best shots in the regiment, brigade and to the company making the best aggregate score.

Tibbs—Jimpson says it was so cold when he was out sleighing the other day that the reins froze stiff. Tibbs—Hard lines.—New York Press.

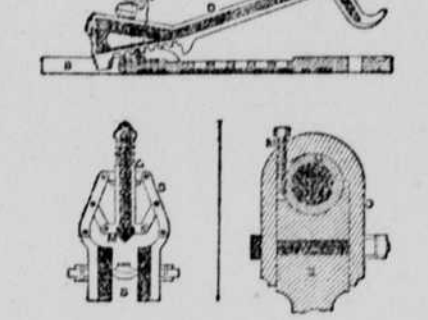
In a lecture the other evening the Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale said that the plan of Beaton is almost perfect. The foolish story of the streets being marked by cows is told of every city, and there is no doubt they were scientifically laid out by the people. The first resident of Boston was William Blackstone, who lived near Louisburg square. The common was in his cow pasture. The phrase "Tri-mountian" was given to three elevations on Beacon Hill, and not, as generally supposed, to Fort Copp's and Beacon's Hill.

To Washington and Baltimore via the Monon Route.

There is not a pleasanter or more picturesque route from Chicago to Washington and Baltimore than the Monon, via Cincinnati and the B. & O. S. W. and B. & O. Railways. The train service of this line is comfortable and convenient, consisting of through palace sleeping cars and 2-45 A. M. but the sleeper is ready for occupancy at any time after 9:30 P. M. This route traverses the garden section of southern Ohio, and passes through the historic section of West Virginia in the evening and down the beautiful and tradition laden Potomac valley in the early morning, arriving at the national capital at 6:47 and Baltimore 7:55 the next morning. Taken altogether it is a most comfortable and restful journey, a tour of education, that once taken will never be forgotten, and the oftener repeated, the more enjoyed.

FRANK J. REED,
General Passenger Agent.

New Invention



A very clever invention has just been patented to an Omaha inventor for a motor in which the weight of a moving or stationary railway train is utilized to wind up a weight or spring, this stored power to be later utilized in running a pump or a mill. The patent was secured through Sues & Co., registered patent lawyers, Omaha, Neb. Write to them for their free patent book.

Iowa Patent Office Report.

Des Moines, March 9, 1898. We receive frequent thanks and commendations from inventors for whom we secure patents, but have never published them. But the following testimonial from one of the largest publishing companies in the west we make an exception.

In reply to a letter from A. H. M., of Albion, Neb., March 7, 1898, to the editor of the Iowa Homestead in which the writer said: "I would like to know if the Iowa Patent Office is a reliable concern," the following was voluntarily given him:

"Your favor of yesterday is at hand. The Iowa Patent Office is entirely reliable and has been doing business in this city for a quarter of a century or more. It will give an opinion on patentability of a device with instructions how to proceed, without charge for such service. For subsequent services it probably has its regular scale of fees.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) HOMESTEAD CO."

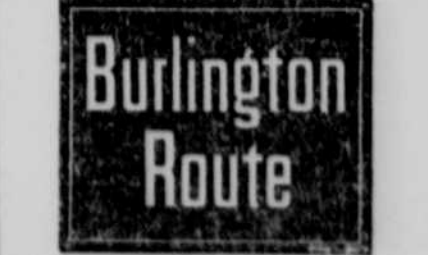
U. S. Patents have been allowed as follows: To J. S. Lord, of Des Moines, for a bicycle attachment adapted for carrying a second person at the side of the rear wheel. To J. D. Coon, of Nathron, Colo., for a breech-loading double-barreled gun.

Valuable information about obtaining, valuing and selling patents sent free to any address.

THOMAS G. & J. RALPH ORWIG,
Solicitors of Patents.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has improved its freight facilities in Philadelphia very materially during the past year. A new pier, No. 22 South, which was completed in December 557 feet long and 140 feet wide and is said to be one of the finest in the city. Vessels of the deepest draught can tie up on both sides of the pier, thereby affording every facility for the prompt handling of freight. The pier and sheds are lighted with improved incandescent lights, and well paved driveways have been provided.

This improvement enables the B. and O. to handle about three times as much business as formerly. The efficient freight yards throughout the city have been improved by the laying of additional tracks, and arrangements have been made with the Pennsylvania Warehousing and S. & D. Deposit Company by which the B. and O. handles grain, flour, hay, straw, canned goods and other merchandise through their warehouses and elevators.



Where times are prosperous.

Black Hills people don't know what "Hard Times" means. There is a new country and a good one; a country where labor is well paid and where business men make more in one year than in two almost anywhere else.

The climate is excellent, the soil is rich, the business is almost unlimited.

4 Tracks, General Passenger Agent,
Omaha, Neb.