

Red Cloud Chief.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA

As a wonder, the two-minute trotter lasted just about that long.

"An artistic swindle" is impersonal, but it involves one or more artistic swindlers.

It would be a weak kind of patriotism that could not survive if deprived of the toy pistol.

Mme. Melba refuses to be interviewed by reporters. Must be afraid of striking a false note.

Every man has his price, but most of us are able to remain ostensibly honest because we can't get it.

The day still may come when the American trotting horse will be used to set the pace for automobile races.

Sometimes the man who proudly wears a campaign button in his coat lapel has to fasten his suspender with a nail.

You can never make a woman believe that the grocer who stops to admire the baby is giving her short weight.

It is reported that the recording angel having charge of the New York political books is suffering from writer's cramp.

Probably a considerable part of the expenditure of \$1,336,000 for target practice in the navy is required for new targets.

The Senate has been compelled to hesitate in deciding some vexatious questions. But "is marriage a failure" is not one of them.

It will pay you to be just as economical with coal this winter as you were a year ago, even though there may be no necessity.

Chile takes this occasion to invite public attention to several excellent bargains in battleships only slightly used and as good as new.

Rev. Anna H. Shaw declares that the Daughters of the Revolution are inconsistent, but, after all, isn't that lovely woman's privilege?

It is a fine assumption of courage and sangfroid which the Canadians are now giving, considering that nobody is holding Algy Sartoris.

A couple who were married on top of the Montauk lighthouse came down to earth soon after, just as do other couples when they are wedded.

Santo Domingo's people are determined that they will be no longer ruled by a person of the name of Wosy Gil, and who can blame them?

If the Princess Radziwill gets that \$7,000,000 from the estate of Cecil Rhodes, Charles M. Schwab might show her where she could invest it.

Most of the strike troubles are confined to Spain and the United States. Maybe this is a punishment to the two countries for warring with each other.

Miss Ellen M. Stone has managed to restrain any impulse she may have had to write a flattering obituary of Sareff, the Macedonian insurgent leader.

From Sir Thomas' willingness to give up the cup races it must be inferred that being called a jolly good fellow is not quite so effective a jolly as had been supposed.

Never mind Ann. The Memphis Commercial-Appeal says: "There is a girl over in London who has twelve different personalities. What kin is she to Joe Chamberlain?"

Japan and Russia continue to deny that they are anything but the best of friends, but no soldier or sailor on either side would find it prudent to ask for a leave of absence.

Two boys, 7 and 5 years old, have just traveled from Scotland to Seattle alone. It's a great deal easier to check a child on a railway than it is sometimes to check a child at home.

The report that a hen 26 years old is on exhibition at Budapest is probably true. At least we are sure that the hen is as far away as Budapest, or our landlady would have purchased it by this time.

That Canadian statesman who suggests that Uncle Sam is trying to get the north pole preparatory to annexing Canada deserves fame as the first man who has discovered a practical use for the pole.

H. B. Marriott-Watson, who says the American woman is a destroyer of civilized society, should stick to straight fiction in the form of the novel. There is no demand for fiction in the diluted form of the critical essay.

Bishop Potter severely condemns the one-child family and expresses deep pity for that "most unfortunate" child. By the way, why don't some of these propounders of the race suicide theory specify about what would be the happy medium?

OVERAWES CHINA

The Russian Government Again Bulldozing China

25,000 TROOPS ON THE MOVE

The Manchurian Matter Under Serious Consideration—Russia's Aggressive Attitude is the Principal Topic

The Russian military re-occupation of Mukden, Manchuria, has caused such tension and has aroused such an aggressive attitude on the part of China that the continued dispatch of troops to the far east is now said to be directed against China despite the pacific terms of the Russo-Japanese dispute. Troops totaling 250,000 were ordered to the far east when hostilities appeared imminent and they are being continually drafted from the government of Moscow and the nine surrounding provinces. With the troops already in the far east this will give Russia an overwhelming force with which to overawe China.

Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, and the secretary discussed Russo-American affairs for more than an hour. The Manchurian matter was a subject of extended consideration and the assurances exchanged, it can be stated, were mutually satisfactory.

New Era in Cane Sugar Production

The department of agriculture, in its official "Crop Reporter," for November announces that the indications are that the world has entered on a new era in the production of cane sugar. The department quotes estimates placing in the total sugar production of the world in the year in 1903-04 at 10,425,800 tons of cane sugar and 6,082,000 tons of beet sugar and says as to cane sugar:

"During the past five years the world's output of this product has increased from 3,000,000 to upwards of 4,000,000 tons, quantitatively the greatest increase ever made in any five year period in the history. Moreover, for the first time in a half century the ratio of increase in the world's production of cane sugar has exceeded that of sugar made from beets, the percentage of increase in the former product for the five years being about double that of the latter. The four years from 1900-01 to 1903-04, inclusive, were each in its turn record breaking years for the production of sugar. The previous high record crop (3,530,000 tons) was that of 1894-95, the crop made just before the outbreak of the revolution in the most important producer, Cuba.

"The high record crop in the history of the world's beet sugar production was that of 1901-02. Since that date there has been a decline in production in Europe, amounting in all to about 1,000,000 tons, but the present year's estimated output still shows a considerable increase over that of five years ago."

The report says that about 70 per cent of the cane sugar of the world is now annually produced on tropical and semi-tropical islands. The prospective output for 1903-04 of the leading single producers, Cuba and Java, constitute 45 per cent of the world's cane sugar.

Inspector of Immigration for Omaha

Through the efforts of Senator Millard it is said that Secretary Cortelyou has decided to create a new office and appoint an official to take charge of it, in Omaha's federal building. The officer will be known as an inspector of immigration. Word has been received that the decision to appoint such an officer has been reached and that his appointment will shortly take place.

It is said that Chinese residents who desire to return to their homes across the Pacific have experienced a great deal of trouble in securing the papers which would permit them to leave and return to this country and it is to straighten this matter out more than for any other reason that the office has been created. It is understood that some nearby towns will be included in the territory over which the Omaha officer will have jurisdiction.

What the Official Vote Is

Judge Barnes received a total vote of 96,991; Judge Sullivan a total of 87,966. The total vote cast for Sedgwick for judge in 1901 was 98,993. The total vote for Hollenbeck was 86,234. Judge Barnes ran 2,002 votes behind Judge Sedgwick and Judge Sullivan is 1,682 votes ahead of Judge Hollenbeck. The vote at the recent election will be officially verified by the state canvassing board, at the office of the secretary of state, to inspect and verify and election returns as certified to the secretary of state by the county clerks of the several counties. There are but few contests to be made in the judicial districts, although one is expected in the Eleventh district by at least two of the candidates, Judge Thompson not being willing to concede the election of Judge Hanna. The republicans claim the district for Hanna by thirty-six votes, while Mr. Thompson asserts that the plurality is not more than five votes.

President's Nominations

The president sent the following nominations to the senate: Register of land office—Hugh S. Phillips, at Vancouver, Wash.; Receiver of public moneys—Joseph C. Auld, at Miles City, Mont.

Postmasters—Illinois, Alfred Schuyler, Mound City; Iowa, Fred W. Wilson, Ottumwa; Kansas, Orly C. Billings, Marion; Montana, Clarence H. Drake, Chouteau.

The Open Door Treaty With China

The long expected treaty between the United States and China, which was negotiated in Shanghai by the American commissioners and the Chinese representatives, has just reached Washington and is now under examination by the state department officials. It is the intention to submit the new treaty for ratification to the senate at the earliest possible moment. The provisions of the treaty have been previously outlined. In brief, the important provisions are those opening to trade the Chinese ports of Mukden and Antung in Manchuria.

Corn Remains King of Crops

Two months ago, when the early frosts came, the United States suffered short spasms of doleful dumps over the outlook for the corn crop. Now, however, the government statisticians see reason to believe that the 1903 crop will be larger than that of any previous year in the history of the country with the single exception of 1902.

The estimate is for a crop of 2,313,000,000 bushels, grown on a little less than 90,000,000 acres of land, with an average yield of about 25.8 bushels per acre.

Last year the corn growers not only planted a larger acreage, but secured a heavier yield. On a trifle more than 94,000,000 acres 2,523,000,000 bushels were grown, the average per acre being 26.8 bushels.

This year has an advantage over last year, however, in the quality of the corn, the general average being 83.1 per cent as compared with 80.7 per cent last year. In 1901 the general average was 73.7 per cent and in 1900 85.5 per cent.

The corn crops of the last decade have varied greatly in size, the worst being that of 1894, when 62,000,000 acres produced only 1,212,000,000 bushels. Since then the acreage has ranged between 80,000,000 and 90,000,000 bushels, except in the two years 1901 and 1902, when it was above 90,000,000, and the total yield has ranged from 1,522,000,000 to 2,523,000,000 bushels. The low figure was in 1901.

In 1900 the total crop of the world, outside the United States was only about 700,000,000 bushels.

The good yield of this year, maintaining as it does the purchasing power of the corn-growing communities, will be a helpful factor in the commercial and industrial prosperity of the country.

Macedonian Revolutionists Honored

When Boris Saraffoff, leader of the Macedonian revolutionists, arrived at Sofia he was received at the railway station by thousands of persons who brought laurel wreaths and flowers and acclaimed Saraffoff as a national hero. The Macedonian leader presented a picturesque appearance. His beard was unkempt, his hair hung in locks and his features were weather beaten. After the delivering of patriotic speeches a procession was formed and Saraffoff was borne on the shoulders of his admirers to the house of his parents. On the way Saraffoff halted in front of the cathedral and thanked the crowd for the reception, declaring that the revolutionists were not only unconquered, but their work was but now beginning.

Three Firemen Killed at Cleveland

Three firemen were killed and two injured as the result of the largest fire that the city of Cleveland has had in months. The dead:

Robert Duffy.
Robert Reed.
James Schweda.

The injured:
Michael Corrigan, leg broken.
Harry Vanderve, suffering from shock. In hospital, outcome uncertain.

Battalion Chief Andrews, slightly injured about the body.
Duffy and Schweda were killed almost instantly, having been caught under a falling wall. Reed died an hour or two later in the hospital.

Opinion of Attorney General Prout

Attorney General Prout has given an opinion holding that personal taxes for this year become delinquent December 1. The penalty is 10 per cent and county treasurers are supposed to have authority to issue distress warrants February 1 for the collection of such taxes or suffer the penalty on their bonds for not complying with the provisions of the new revenue law regarding collections. The railroads which recently notified State Treasurer Mortensen that they would pay their personal taxes December 1, have since decided that such taxes do not become delinquent until later. The present assessment of the railroads means that they will have to pay \$175,000.

Iron Workers Want a New Scale

Representatives of the amalgamated association of street railway employees of which William D. Mahon of Detroit is president made a demand upon President J. D. Callery of the Pittsburg Railway company for an adjustment of wages and hours to take effect January 1.

Colorado Coal Miners Still Out

Contrary to the expectation coal mining was not resumed in the northern Colorado field, the operators' position to concede an eight-hour day pending the result of the strike in southern Colorado having been rejected by the miners. Information from the southern field is to the effect that neither the operators nor the strikers show any signs of weakening and a prolonged struggle is expected.

France Has an Immense Wheat Crop

The department of agriculture has been advised that the 1903 wheat crop of France, according to an estimate of the French ministry of agriculture, is 365,609,514 bushels, harvested from 16,151,967 acres. These figure represent the largest crop and the smallest area of any crop harvested in France within the last ten years.

The Government Wins a Case

The supreme court of the United States decided the case of the St. Louis Hay and Grain company versus the United States favorably to the government. The case involved a contract for 9,000,000 pounds of hay, a part of which was not accepted within the time specified in the contract.

Lord Kitchener Badly Injured

Lord Kitchener, commander in chief of the British forces in India, has met with a serious accident while riding home alone from a country house near Simla, India.

He was passing through a tunnel and his horse became frightened and collided with the walled side. One of Lord Kitchener's legs was broken in two places. Some time afterward colliers passing through the tunnel found the commander in chief lying there helpless and took him to Simla. He is now reported to be doing well.

THE FATAL REQUEST OR FOUND OUT

By A. L. Harris Author of "Mine Own Familiar Friend," etc.

Copyright, 1901, by Cassell Publishing Company. Copyright, 1902, by Street & Smith.

CHAPTER III.—Continued.

Mr. Burritt was puzzled and expressed as much by his looks. Why on earth did the man come stealing into his room in that strange, uncomfortable manner, and at that hour, and for no apparent purpose?

His friend seemed to read what was passing in his mind. "I am sorry if I have disturbed you," he said, slowly, "but I could not bear my own thoughts any longer, and so I—" He turned to leave the room.

Mr. Burritt followed him with his eyes. He still seemed to him to be part of his dream—his strange, horrible dream.

Then, as the other man reached the door, and passing through it, closed it behind him, he gave a gasp of relief. The next moment he had crossed the floor and turned the key in the lock.

"I could have sworn I had locked it before," he said to himself. "At any rate there shall be no mistake this time," as he shot the bolt to make matters doubly sure.

CHAPTER IV.

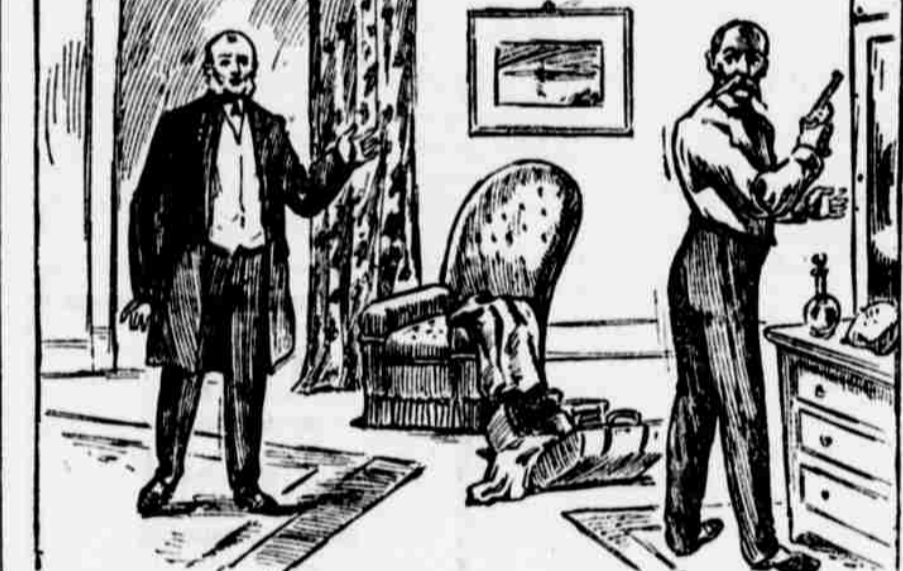
"The Secret Lies Between Us Two."

Next morning Mr. Silas Burritt, and his friend, whose incognito is still preserved, were seated at breakfast together.

In the clear light of day, in the presence of the most appetizing viands, the former gentleman found his mind completely divested of all those gloomy and distrustful thoughts and suspicions which had caused him so much disquietude previously, to say nothing of having ruined his night's rest. It was astonishing what a widely different view he took of the matter as he discussed this early meal. His heart warmed anew toward his old friend, who sat facing him, and who also appeared to more advantage under these more cheerful circumstances.

"Murdered!" he exclaimed; then—"I beg your pardon," he muttered, somewhat confusedly, "I did not take your meaning at first; in fact, I have almost forgotten my Shakespeare."

"I beg yours," said Mr. Burritt; "the quotation was most inapt. I had also forgotten for the moment, that it was to the murder of Duncan that Mac-



"Good Heavens! What are you doing?"

"It is quite understood that you return with me and stop at least one night," he remarked, genially. "In fact, there is no escape for you, as I have already dispatched a telegram to let them know at home that I am bringing a friend back with me."

"You are very good, Silas," was the reply, "and for one night, at least, I will accept your hospitality."

"And you must come and stay with us while you are looking about for a house—make us your headquarters, you know. I've no doubt that the two girls, yours and mine, will be bosom friends in less than no time; and as for my boy Ted, he'll be head over heels in love your daughter—if she's anything like your description—before we know where we are. Ha, ha! I shouldn't be a bit surprised—the young dog!" and his father laughed aloud, delighted at his own perspicacity. "By the way, Jim," relapsing into a more serious vein, "that would not be a half bad idea—your girl and my boy—eh?"

The other looked at him intently. "You mean it?" he asked.

"Mean it? Of course I do. Why not?"

"In spite of—of everything that has gone before?"

"Good heavens, man! what has the past got to do with your innocent daughter? That would be visiting the sins of the fathers upon the children with a vengeance."

The other man looked at his friend, and his habitually stern face softened. "You are very generous," he said; "more generous than I have a right to expect."

"Come, come," answered Mr. Burritt, "don't talk like that, for heaven's sake; don't let us begin it all over again. Your secret—such as it is—and this is the last allusion I intend to make, or allow you to make, to it—lies between us two; which is the same thing as saying that it is perfectly safe."

Then, more for the sake of giving the conversation a more cheerful turn, than for any other reason, he said: "I think you made some remark last night to the effect that you had made a large fortune. If so, I am sincerely glad to hear it."

"Yes," was the indifferent reply; "I am, comparatively speaking, what you would call a wealthy man, and my daughter will be an heiress in her way."

"I am very glad to hear it," said Mr. Burritt heartily, "and at the same time—not that I wish to boast—I may

Burritt, "that you carry it about your person?"

The other nodded. "Look here," he said, "I've lived a rough sort of life in a wild part of the world, for the last twenty years. I've seen men shot down by my side, in a refreshment saloon, more than once, and more than once had a narrow escape from a similar fate myself. In fact"—sinking his voice—"I don't mind owning to you that on one occasion I have killed my man—in self-defense mind," he added, hastily, seeing the look of horror which, for a moment, overspread his friend's face. "In self-defense," he repeated, with emphasis, "and with the odds three to one. Where should I have been then but for my revolver? As it was, I cleared the world of at least one ruffian."

"And no one—I mean—"

"No one thought any the worse of me, I assure you. Indeed,"—with a faint smile, the first Mr. Burritt had seen upon his face, lurking for a moment round the corners of his mouth—"I even had a testimonial presented to me by some of the leading citizens of the place, thanking me for ridding them of such a pestilent character as 'Black Jake,' which was the name the villain went by."

Mr. Burritt heard him throughout with astonishment, mingled with a faint sensation of horror. It seemed hard to credit that the calm, middle-aged, well-dressed man before him—his own contemporary—had passed through such an experience as this; and that the hand which he had shaken with so much cordiality had blood upon it!

"Thank God!" he cried, "that we have nothing of this sort in England. There is no shooting people down in refreshment saloons in this country!"

"Perhaps not," was the caustic reply; "but, for all that, it struck me, on looking at the paper this morning, that you had got your own share of most of the crimes going—and plenty of 'Black Jakes,' or their equivalents, too."

"Very likely," said Mr. Burritt, with eyes still fixed on the revolver. "By-the-way, would you mind telling me—is that the same weapon that you used on that occasion you were speaking of—I mean when you shot the other—or—individual?"

"Meaning 'Black Jake'? Yes, I'm happy to say it is the very same."

Mr. Burritt felt that he somehow regarded the article in question with less favor than ever.

"I suppose there isn't the least likelihood of its going off unexpectedly?" he inquired, diffidently.

"Not unless I pull the trigger," was the careless response, "and I'm not likely to do that, unless you attack me first."

The joke—if joke it were—struck Mr. Burritt as being in singular bad taste.

"I must say," he repeated, with a little perceptible irritation in his manner, "that, in this instance, I don't see the necessity for—"

"Very likely, you don't," interrupted the other, resuming his coat; "but if you had been in the habit of carrying it about your person for as many years as I have, and always been accustomed to sleep with it under your pillow, you would think no more of carrying a revolver than you would an umbrella or a watch."

This remark served to remind Mr. Burritt of his original errand. He therefore explained the reason of his intrusion, and having been accommodated by the loan of the desired article, turned to leave the room again.

He hesitated for a moment on the threshold and cast another glance over his shoulder at his friend, who was doing something to the cherished weapon with a bit of oily rag. The latter looked up and met it.

"You don't really mean, Silas, that you are afraid to trust yourself in my company now that you know I carry a revolver?" he asked, with another sudden frown. "You don't surely—?"

(To be continued.)

A Cure for Sissies.

One way for college athletes to earn their expenses nowadays is by acting as sort of male governesses, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. Wealthy parents whose young sons are being educated at home by governesses frequently apply at the employment offices of universities for the services of some athlete who can give their boys five or six hours a week of companionship. They are afraid that the education of governesses alone may make their sons "sissified."

A number of athletes paying their own way through the various colleges have such jobs. Three or four mornings a week they go to the boys, romp with them, play ball, and during the winter skate and coast. Usually they are also employed in vacation to stay with the boys at their parents' summer homes. One Northwestern student has held such a position for three years.

When Charles Lamb Said Grace.

Recently, when Edmund Clarence Stedman was visiting in New England, he was called upon by the head of the house while at dinner to invoke the divine blessing.

"I was rather surprised, and for half a minute sorely tempted," said Mr. Stedman in relating the incident. "Then I rose to the occasion and asked a grace which I remembered."

"But, Mr. Stedman," demanded a young woman of the party eagerly, "to what were you sorely tempted?"

"To do as Charles Lamb did under similar circumstances."

"And that was?"

"He looked about the board and asked in his surprise: 'Is there no clergyman present?' The host shook his head. Then Lamb prayed: 'For this and all other mercies, O Lord, make us truly thankful.'"—New York Times.