

BRIEF REFERENCES TO MEN AND MATTERS

What a lot of bally rot we are having these days about President Despain of the Lincoln Ball club looking for a manager. It would be the easiest thing in the world to select the best possible man, and because we like Despain and hope for a pennant winning team that we step forward with a practical solution of a problem that seems to be vexing him. Wait until the first championship game is pulled off, and then select the manager from among the two or three hundred men in the south end of the grandstand. Every blooming one of the bunch knows more about the great national pastime than the man who invented it.

Rev. H. A. Stimson, pastor of the Manhattan Congregational church in New York City, painted such a vivid picture of the working conditions of girls in that city that a committee of churchmen was appointed to investigate. If the committee does its duty, instead of making a perfunctory investigation, as is most likely, something may be accomplished towards achieving a reform that is sadly needed. And if the reform is achieved Rev. Mr. Stimson and his church will have accomplished more by that one thing than most churches accomplish along practical lines in a generation. Our uncivilized social and industrial conditions are ruining human souls at a rate that makes the churches work to keep up with.

"Fighting Bob" Evans says we ought to spend millions in preparing for war because it is "better to be safe than sorry." It would be well, however, to bear in mind that war is "Fighting Bob's" trade.

Petru Lucas, one of the many "kings of the Gypsies," was refused admission to the United States the other day. Petru formerly lived in this country, but after quarreling with his wife left her and returned to his native Bosnia. There he bought another wife for \$100 and a fat pig. When he attempted to re-enter the United States he was turned down because of his "loose matrimonial views," as the immigration officers put it. It would seem that Petru made a mistake by returning to Bosnia to get another wife. What he should have done was to marry another woman right here in the United States, whereupon he would have stood a good show for election to the senate or the congress of this nation. Failing that he might have secured a profitable connection with the steel trust.

As expected, the New York democracy—the democratic democrats, we mean—won a hollow victory last November. William Sheean is to be elected senator in place of Depew. Sheean is nominally a democrat, but the only difference between him and Depew is the difference in party name. "Big Business" doesn't care a fig what political party is in power just so the officials are of the Sheean type of democrat or the Depew type of republican.

Surely the bold highwaymen who held up that newspaperman last Monday night were rank amateurs. Highwaymen of experience usually spot men known to be in the habit of carrying money or valuable jewelry. The only explanation of the apparent idiocy of the Monday night highwaymen is that they made a mistake as to the identity of their victim.

For several years the republican majority in the United States senate has been so large that republican members were forced to sit on the democratic side, among democrats. The mixed section was known as the "Cherokee Strip." When the new senate meets next March there will be no "Cherokee Strip." The republicans will experience no difficulty in finding seats on the republican side of the chamber.

The series of sermons on "Democracy," now being delivered by Rev. Dr. Weatherly of Unity church, should be heard by as many men and women as can crowd into that edifice. Dr. Weatherly's democracy is of the brand that knows not partisan lines. He is a scholar, an original investigator and a sound reasoner, hence his sermons on this subject are certain to be instructive and uplifting. The first of the series was delivered last Sunday to a congregation of more than the usual size, the result of newspaper advertising. The sermon itself was such that it will serve to advertise the series as being unusually worth while. Any community is the better for possessing among its citizenship such thoughtful, public spirited and energetic citizens as the pastor of Unity church.

Gilbert M. Hitchcock was elected United States senator by the working of the "Oregon plan" last Tuesday, yet, despite the dire predictions of Charles Wooster, Freedom neither shrieked nor the constitution emitted a groan when the sacred palladium of our liberties was thus ruthlessly trampled in the dust.

City Clerk Dan Butler of Omaha is highly indignant over Governor Aldrich's intimation that elections in Omaha are somewhat corrupt. As a result of his indignation Dan'l has written a fiery letter in

which he sternly calls the governor to account. For the benefit of Dan'l of Omaha we pause to relate a little story about another Dan'l, this one of Missouri. Down in a little town in northwest Missouri lives a man named Dan, last name not given for fear of identification and resultant complications. Dan'l likes his toddy now and then, and always manages to get close to a clerical brother-in-law under circumstances indicating too much indulgence on the part of Dan'l. One day Dan'l, feeling fine, met his reverend brother-in-law on the street and remarked: "Well, parson, I just paid my taxes." "Is that so; how much were they this year?" "Just \$876.43," replied the happy Dan'l. "Gracious!" ejaculated the reverend relative; "isn't that pretty steep? Why didn't you protest?" "I was afraid, by thunder, that if I protested against paying that much the board would make me pay what I really owned," retorted Dan'l with an expansive grin. The moral we mean to convey to Dan'l of Omaha through the medium of this true story is that he may become so dodgasted indignant that Governor Aldrich will prove it.

"I want a heating stove," remarked a man who had stepped into the Hall Bros. Co. store the other day. "Very well," replied the smiling Mr. Hall, "I presume you want a magazine stove?" "Magazine stove; what's that?" queried the prospective customer. "Why, a self-feeding stove," replied Mr. Hall. "Great Scott, no!" thundered the prospective customer, "I want a stove I can feed with a spoon!"

While every one regrets the straits in which the Farmers & Merchants' Insurance Co. finds itself, no one who keeps in touch with business enterprises will be surprised thereat. It has been common knowledge for some time that the company was on the shoals. In applying for a receiver for the company Auditor Barton has again given evidence that he is ever watchful of the people's interests and ready to protect them at all times. It is to be hoped that the tangled affairs of the company will speedily be straightened out and the corporation put upon its feet.

When leading lights in the temperance reform cause fall out and begin "backcapping," what must we amateurs at the game rely upon? If we ally ourselves with the Poulson wing we are immediately attacked by the anti-Poulson wing, and vice versa. And if we ally ourselves with neither we are at once denounced by both as "tools of the rum power." It is almighty hard for a poor weak mortal, intent upon doing the right thing, to make decision when exemplars of the reforms in question are unable to agree upon a program.

President Taft's appointment of Congressman Walter I. Smith of Iowa to be circuit judge is not a surprise. Smith is a "standpatter" of the rankest kind, and his environment and associations have so trained him as to make him highly acceptable to the interests most concerned in securing judges who will be "fair." Perhaps, however, we should not speak in derogation of President Taft's choice. He might have appointed a man of the Judge Smith McPherson calibre.

Of course the fact that the thousands present cheered when Governor Harmon appeared at the Baltimore "jollification" is announced as "the launching of the Harmon presidential boom." Be that as may be, the fact remains that Harmon seems first in line for the honor. His democratic record may show some few wobbly lines in recent years, but when he refused to lend himself to one of Roosevelt's grandstand anti-corporation plays and insisted on handling the case like a real lawyer instead of a political shyster, he made a hit with a lot of people. With Harmon the democratic candidate and LaFollette the candidate of the republicans, democratic democrats and republican republicans may lend their entire efforts to electing a congress that will represent the people.

James A. Reed has been elected the successor of Senator Warner of Missouri, a fact that should rejoice the hearts of progressives, be they republicans or democrats. Reed will take his place with that rapidly growing group of senators who are striving to represent the whole people instead of special interests. LaFollette of Wisconsin is not nearly so lonely as he was that day he arose to make his maiden speech in the senate and was insulted by senators from Oil Trust, Steel Trust, Tobacco Trust, Express Trust and other concerns, walking out of the chamber. LaFollette is still there; by twos and threes those who insulted him that day are being retired to that privacy from which they never should have emerged.

The legislators will do well to remember that the farmers are not the only Nebraskans whose interests need looking after. There are more Nebraskans earning a living apart from the farms than are earning a living upon the farms. And the welfare of the children of the mill and factory workers is of quite as much importance as the welfare of the cows and hogs of the farmers.