

**THE MEAT TRUST.**

Every plutocratic, trust-advocating paper in the United States has been claiming that the high price of meat was not because of the extortions of the trust, but on account of the shortage of cattle. Monday morning The Independent received the following document franked from the treasury department at Washington, which, if it had been sent out before instead of the republican campaign stuff that it has been flooding the country with, it might have had some effect on the elections. It is here printed verbatim as received:

"The end of the first three-quarters of the calendar year affords a good point of retrospect from which to compare the volume of commercial movements in the domestic trade of the United States with that of the preceding year. The September Summary of Internal Commerce, issued by the treasury bureau of statistics, furnishes statistical returns for this purpose. Its reports show that the live stock traffic during September was larger than for the corresponding month in either of the two preceding years at the five markets of Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis and St. Joseph taken together. A total of 56,996 carloads of stock were received during September, 1902, while 52,614 carloads arrived in September, 1901, and 50,716 carloads in September, 1900. In two years, therefore, there has been a gain of 6,280 cars, or 12.38 per cent."

**The Heights Ahead.**

Editor Independent: Your letter and a copy of The Independent, which is to come for a year, were both received. Just as soon as I am able, and within a few days, a list of the reading democrats about here will be furnished me and each one shall have at least one copy of The Independent.

It seems to me that the populist ideas are the evidence of a realization—and that is an evolution of the truth in democratic principles.

I am glad that you are brave enough to denounce wrong doers and hope the time will come when you will have to use all your strength in praising them for abandoning error and turning to the right.

There are heights ahead yet for the populists and they are headed toward them and gaining with the swiftness of a western wind.

MRS. M. L. BIGELOW.  
Copopa, O.

**Brainless Routine.**

It has been truly said that all the training required by children in the labor market is in the direction of mechanical and brainless routine; there is and can be no real apprentice system among them at all. It is claimed by men and women who have made the most exhaustive investigation of the subject that the factory child, trained neither in the school room nor the workshop, can develop no individuality and promises, in coming to maturity, to be little more than an addition to the mass of wretched, helpless unskilled labor.

**A Universal Remedy.**

Editor Independent: Let me announce a universal remedy for this world's ills. It is coming before the world in its proper light and all had better heed it. It is the lawmaking power couched in the democratic and republican opponents. Both are like two cats hung up by their tails over a barbed wire fence. You know their destiny. The true issue before the world is God's law and man's law; God's law exalted, man's law burnt up.

C. W. LAWSON.  
Ennis, Tex.

**Telephone Improvements.**

Under the management of Mr. N. W. Thompson the Lincoln exchange of the Nebraska Telephone Co. has been making an unprecedented growth in the volume of business and many splendid improvements in the service. Owing to the large increase in the number of patrons he expects to make extensive improvements in the central office. During the month of September 130 names were added to the list and seventy-five names had to be added after the directory went to press on October 6.

To care for these new subscribers three new switchboard sections have been ordered and will be ready for operation before the first of the year. The new sections will handle three hundred phones and will require three operators.

Some time next spring the "central energy system" board will be put in, but on account of the rapid increase in

local business it was decided not to wait for this board before increasing the central service.

The switchboard finally to be installed will call central by merely raising the phone hook, without meddling with the bell. A fourth story will be added to the central building, to accommodate the new switchboard and the present switchroom will be utilized as a rest and lunch room for the employes.

**Discriminating Against Americans.**

The American citizen is required to pay \$3.23 for one kind of harness snaps, \$2.24 for one and \$1.37 for another kind.

These same harness snaps are sold by the American manufacturer to the foreigner for \$2.40, \$1.68 and \$1, respectively.

Here is a difference of 35, 33 and 37 per cent in favor of the foreigner.

This imposition upon the home consumer is made possible by a trust-breeding tariff, maintained by the republican party, whose campaign funds are derived from the trusts.

Why should any American citizen, other than a trust magnate or a republican office holder, vote with a party that is not only responsible for this imposition, but promises to maintain the policy that will perpetuate impositions of this character?

Similar discrimination is made in regard to many articles of commerce, and will continue to be made so long as the people continue to vote for the trust candidates to make and administer the laws of this country. Why shouldn't the people cease voting for the trusts and do a little voting for themselves?—Joplin Globe.

The reader for the publishing house was doing a little marketing, and the grocer had handed him in change a suspicious-looking dollar bill.

He looked at it absent-mindedly, and handed it back.

"I find myself unable to use this," he said, "and herewith return it. You are not to understand, however, that it is declined on account of a lack of merit, but because for my particular purpose it is unavailable."—Chicago Tribune.

**Women in Federal Service.**

About one-third of all the employes in the government department at Washington are women. Their salaries range from \$660 to over \$2,500 per annum. Last year of the 3,083 applicants for government positions, 2,476 passed the examination, and 444 were appointed. The most popular examination for women is that for stenographers and typewriters. The men applicants for these positions predominate; yet the average passing was larger on the women's side. Many of the lower officials refuse to have male stenographers in their offices.

Although the records show that the women applicants have much greater ability than the men, yet men are in the majority appointed. A thousand reasons are urged why men should have the preference, although hardly one woman in fifty but is either the sole support of a family, or one of its main props.

The government employe works just as hard as her sister outside, and, once having obtained a position, she has to work to keep it. A young woman was last year made chief of one of the divisions in the postoffice department because she knew more about the work of that particular division than any other employe.

Miss Thora Stejneger, a Norwegian woman, has charge of the classification of all animals received by the Smithsonian institute, and she examines and labels them with unerring skill.

The way of obtaining government positions is tedious and long, but under the methods employed by the civil service commission, it is open to all.

There are a great many elderly ladies employed in the treasury department. Some are in the 70's; one or two have reached the 80's. They have worked for years in this department, and are wonderfully expert in their duties. Their salaries overlap the \$100 per month mark. It is doubtful if any man could be found to do the work at any salary.

In cases where exactitude to the verge of finickiness is required, women are better clerks than men. The tabulating machines, requiring unending patience and the most skillful exact-

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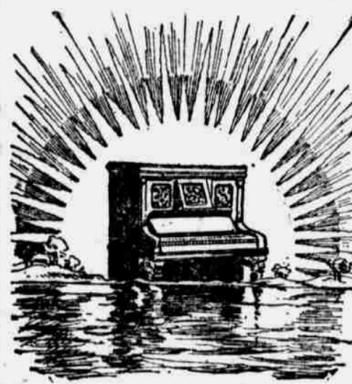
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ness of touch, are all run by women.

**Women as Navy Nurses.**

Surgeon General Rixey, of the navy, says "that women are the superior of men for the work of nursing, there can be no question, and the objection that they are not compatible with military conditions can scarcely apply to institutions of the character of our large naval hospitals."

**Christmas Thoughts.**

It is none too early to plan for your Christmas kindnesses. In arranging your givings, do not strain after the impossible, but give according to your means and ability. Try to have your gifts serve some purpose—to amuse; to entertain; to instruct; to fill some need; supply some want; something to serve, in the way of cheering, brightening, comfort and encouraging. Let them be as beautiful as you may, but do not make them burdensome because of their uselessness, or unfitness for the recipient.

In your plannings, remember the lonely and the friendless. Oftener than not, you will find them among well-fed, well-clothed, well-conditioned persons; money, or anything that money will buy, will not stay the heart-hunger, or longing for companionship as will a kind word or act of social courtesy. Remember the poor in purse with

delicate tact, for poverty is often very proud and sensitive.

Do not forget the aged and neglected; there is nothing so grateful for kindly notice as unregarded age.

If your purse is empty, do not think that Christmas brings to you no opportunity. To your absent friend, send a loving message of remembrance, if only a few words on a postal card. To those about you, give cordial greetings, and kindly words. You cannot measure the good this touch of sympathy may do your friend.

"A smile, a word, a touch, And each so quickly given!

Yet they may win

A soul from sin,

And smooth the way to heaven.

A word may soften pains keen'est smart,

A touch may lead us from sin apart.

How easily given!"

Nowhere have we any record that our Lord gave material gifts. He gave only himself. A healing touch; a tender tone; a loving admonition; a sorrowful rebuke; a look; a tear; and in all these he gave us evidence of his great love and compassionate sympathy—just himself.

Give goodly gifts if you can; but remember that oftentimes the best and sweetest gifts are those that one can command "Without money and without price."

—H. W. McV., in The Commoner.

