

News of the Week

The treaty with Colombia concerning building an isthmian canal has been held up again. Everything has been arranged and the treaty was ready for the signatures of the contracting parties when the Colombian minister announced that he had no authority to sign. Over \$1,000,000 has been expended and a treaty has not even been made. A big trans-continental railroad lobby at Washington is looking after that business. It is not to the interests of the railroads to have a canal built across the isthmus and so we are not to have any. Even if the treaty gets signed after long delay, then it will have to go to the United States senate which has a majority of railroad lawyers in it. Republican platform promises on this subject are not worth any more than those promising to admit the territories as states which the party has openly repudiated.

They are organizing an "imperial national bank" at Chicago. The name given to it, shows where the hearts of the plutocrats are.

Justice Shiras will retire and Governor Taft will take the vacant place on the supreme bench. It does not change the imperialistic majority, but strengthens the "appurtenance" idea in that court.

According to the United States census bureau, suicides have increased 55 per cent in three years. The pursuit of the almighty dollar instead of "the pursuit of happiness" leads straight to death.

The Methodists have raised \$20,000,000 for educational and benevolent purposes. One or two of their universities will get \$1,000,000 each. That is much better than taking part of the loot of the modern feudal barons. It gives to these universities an independence that the recipient of millions from Rockefeller's coal oily hands can never feel.

The number of convicts in federal prisons has increased 50 per cent in ten years. The chase after the almighty dollar leads some to a suicide's grave and many others to a federal prison. Keep it up. The Malthusians say that population is increasing too fast.

Mayor Low's reform administration in New York city has proved so complete a failure that tens of thousands of voters who supported him went over to Tammany and rolled up such a majority as was never seen before. The "tenderloin" district is just as much a hell's half-acre as it ever was. The protests against the way things were running forced the mayor to remove the head of the police department and appoint another.

According to the latest statistics, the increase in the output of petroleum last year was 27.21 per cent, but the increase in price was much more than that. The Rockefeller trust can reverse all known economic laws. Instead of a fall in price upon the production of more than one-fourth more oil there has been a great rise in price. The dailies tell us that trusts are beneficent institutions whose mission is to reduce expenses and lower the selling price of goods, but that does not seem to be the result.

Solon Chase, a great father of the old greenback party that swept Maine back in the seventies and frightened the republican party nearly to death for a few years, is still alive and now and then somebody goes out to Chase's mills and interviews him. Uncle Solon says that he voted for Bryan both times, "but the last time I knew that there was no show for him, because there was not so much hog in the dollar. Hogs had riz in 1900."

and cattle were sold for \$4.75 to \$5.25 in the month of December that would have brought \$8.25 to \$8.75 at the highest time of the year. But the trust has not lowered the price of dressed meat. When will Teddy fire another shot?

Populism has struck Brooklyn, N. Y. The other day the Kings county grand jury made a presentment concerning the traction facilities in Brooklyn and recommended that steps be taken to annul the charters of the constituent companies of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company, and that the city acquire and operate the surface and elevated lines. The presentment declares that present conditions are intolerable, and that the officials of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company had admitted they could cure the evils, but were unwilling to do so. The jury expresses the opinion

that the roads could be operated at a profit on a 3-cent fare basis. The presentment says that the only solution of this vexed problem of metropolitan transportation is municipal ownership and operation of the means of public travel.

Last month the glut of the cattle market at Chicago caused prices to recede to the lowest recently reached. Silver standard Mexico seems to be an inviting field for investment by the gold standard advocates in the United States. Consul General Barlow writes to the state department from the City of Mexico that American capital has been invested in that country to the amount of \$500,000,000, gold value, through 1,117 American companies, firms and individuals. Half of this sum has gone into Mexico during the past five years. If silver money is such a cure as these men have been declaring for the last five years, why do they invest millions in Mexico? They are the worst frauds on earth.

Lord Curzon riding an elephant at the ceremonies representing the crowning of King Edward, reminds one of the days of glorious loot that England has had in that country and the famines that have followed. It is said that \$600,000 were spent in this grand "durbar" show, which reminds us of another thing. Americans contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the starving people of that country, and now the English are wasting hundreds of thousands more in silly and foolish ceremonies.

The steel trust has promulgated a great profit-sharing scheme ostensibly for the benefit of its employes, but the knowing ones wink an eye and then say that it is a plan to dispose of a lot of steel stock that the promoters still have on their hands and for which they can find no buyers.

Dr. Arthur Macdonald, the criminologist of the United States bureau of education, in his latest official report asserts that certain kinds of crime as well as suicide, insanity and nervous diseases, have increased in this country at a much greater rate than the increase of population. Dr. Macdonald attributes the increase in suicide and insanity to the hurry and rush of the cities. This writer has watched the rush and scramble to go aboard the street or elevated cars during the busy hours in New York and Chicago and wondered why the whole population did not go insane, when he reflected that that thing was repeated day after day and year after year.

A list of prices of the ordinary necessities of life was sent to the editor the other day from New York city. It made a mockery of the talk of "prosperity" for the toiling millions.

Let us Have Union

Editor Independent: I see in the November 20 issue a communication favoring a conference for the purpose of consolidating the reform forces politically in one party which I want to sanction. I have always contended that if the money power was overthrown it would have to be done in a party where the laboring class of people could come out from the democratic and republican parties and leave all old prejudices behind, for animosity and abuse was the chief argument of the politicians after the close of the war. It is true they sometimes talked tariff and spoke of the best banking system on earth, but when they got through the average voter knew no more about tariff or the banking system than he did before he left home; but there was one thing that I specially remember of republican politicians, and that is they would appeal to the republican voters, and especially the old soldiers, to rally at the polls and lick 'em again. The result was that neighbors were ready to punch each others' noses; the strife became so great in some places that people that were trying to be Christians would not speak to each other, when had it not been for the politicians they would have been good friends.

Many of the neighborhood feuds and fights, and sometimes murder, are the result of such campaign talk. It is no wonder the politicians are among the despised of the earth and that many good men refuse to accept a nomination for office because of this hatred, and the lying political papers. When I speak of politicians, I do not wish to be understood as meaning all those that talk politics, for there are many that are statesmen. A politician talks anything that he thinks will win, while a statesman talks that he believes to be true, regardless of results, yet the politician is successful, while the statesman has the sneers of a victorious people (corporations) and a prostituted press for pay. No, that

is not all the pay they have, for to this class of men belong all national reforms, they are the defenders of the homes of the people, the defenders of women and children, against those that are robbing them of their rights. Meaner men do not live than those who will hold up little children and take from them their God-given rights, yet this is what the politicians and the corporation press are doing.

To the reformers the people must look for freedom from their robbers, so by all means let us have union and victory. We may not be able to get all we want, but while we work for what we believe to be the best for the people, we should vote for the best we could get, and go on working, for we cannot get all we want at once. We do not want a reformer like the prohibition governor-elect of Nebraska put up by a corporation. Persons that are posted politically know that the whisky power or the brewers and distillers are combined with the other corporations, and a man that works for one, works for all. The whisky men laugh at such reformer, or rather as to how the voters are to be caught by them; but it is anything to fool the voter. Let us have union.

JOHN LONG.

Colfax, Wash.

Transportation

Under a handsome colored cover, the Scientific American publishes a most interesting store of information on "Transportation." The number deals with all phases of the subject, taking up first marine transportation, which is treated in a series of well-illustrated articles. Railroad transportation covers 9 pages of reading matter, in which much of interest will be found. Following this section is that of electric traction, which contains an important article on the Berlin-Zossen test of the 10,000-volt locomotive.

A special feature of this number is a comparison of the railroad statistics in the United States, in which the tremendous proportions of our railroad system are portrayed by a comparison with various familiar standards, such as the Pyramid, the Brooklyn Bridge, etc. The immense amount of food required to provision one of our Atlantic liners is shown in a similar manner. In this way figures and dimensions are graphically presented and permanently fixed on the mind. On account of the broad field covered by this number, it will readily be seen that matter of interest will be found to suit all readers.

"Millions of our people live more or less remote from any postoffice, and a very large proportion of them are not able to buy money orders or bank drafts without great inconvenience. It is not unreasonable to expect from the government that it will provide an easy, convenient, and safe method to transmit small sums, say, \$2 or less in amount, without putting the sender to the inconvenience and expense which now obtains in the purchase of a draft or postoffice money order.

"I urge upon congress the importance of passing some law, so that our people may have the advantage of it at as early a date as possible. Hundreds of thousands of letters carrying small amounts in silver or postage stamps are transmitted every year through the mails. These letters are a constant temptation to those handling them, as it is easy to identify letters inclosing currency.

"With the extension of the rural free delivery service to the remote parts of the country, the use of postal checks would go far to provide the relief so urgently demanded, as it would conveniently serve those sections of the country not heretofore covered by or adjacent to money order offices or the banks of the country."—From report of Postmaster General Payne for 1902.

Down in Wall street when a great religious speculator or trust magnate finds it to his interest to lie outright, which very often happens, it is called "a technical statement." The fact that the Standard Oil company is buying and building a great fleet of steamers to handle the Texas oil after having gobbled the whole Beaumont field, led one of the Standard Oil officials to make "the technical statement" that the trust had not bought or gained control of any oil property in the state of Texas at all. The directors and stockholders as individuals bought the property and it was not bought by the trust. Nevertheless as soon as the deal was completed, the price of the fuel oil of Texas went up to a parity with the prices charged by the trust. The sudden rise in price caused many manufacturers down that way that had been using oil for fuel to go back to coal.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL R. R.

**CUBA** Illinois Central Excursion to Cuba will leave Chicago St. Louis, Cincinnati and Louisville January 23, 1903, reaching same points on the return February 3. A delightful voyage across the gulf of Mexico, a six days' stay on the island of Cuba, including a visit to Havana, Mantanzas, the Valley of Yumuri, the Caves of Belle Mar and other interesting points under the escort of the American Tourist Association. Rate from the points mentioned will be \$160 for the round trip, which amount will include all expenses everywhere. Itineraries, giving full particulars, of your local Illinois Central ticket agent.

**MARDI GRAS** This occurs at New Orleans on February 24, 1903. For its excursion rates will be in effect to New Orleans on specific dates which your local ticket agent will be able to advise you.

**NEW ORLEANS** A delightfully unique city for the tourist to visit. Winter tourist rates now in effect. Double daily service and fast steam-heated vestibule trains with through sleeping cars, buffet-library smoking car service and all meals on route in dining cars. Ask for an illustrated book on New Orleans.

**MEXICO** Tour of all Mexico via the Illinois Central under the auspices of the American Tourist Association, will leave Chicago January 27, 1903. Tickets include all expenses, Railway, Sleeping and Dining Car Fares, Hotels, Carriages, etc.

**FLORIDA** Through "Dixie Flyer" Sleeping Car Lines, St. Louis to Jacksonville, and Chicago to Nashville, the latter connecting en route with through Jacksonville car from St. Louis. Route via Nashville, Chattanooga and Atlanta.

**CALIFORNIA** Personally conducted Weekly Excursion Cars through Los Angeles and San Francisco as follows: Via New Orleans and the Southern Route every Wednesday from Chicago; every Tuesday and Friday from Cincinnati. Via Omaha and the Scenic Route every Friday night from Chicago.

**HOT SPRINGS, ARK.** Through Sleeping Car between Chicago and Hot Springs, carried on the Central's fast Pullman vestibule "Limited" train. Send for book describing this most interesting of health and pleasure resorts.

**HOMESEEKERS** The Passenger Department of the Illinois Central Railroad Company is issuing monthly circulars concerning fruit growing, vegetable gardening, stock raising, dairying, etc., in the States of Kentucky, West Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. Every Farmer Homeseeker, who will forward his name and address will be mailed free Circulars Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and others as they are published from month to month, on application to J. F. MERRY, A. G. P. A., I. C. R. R., Dubuque, Iowa.

**Full Particulars** concerning all of the above can be had of agents of the Illinois Central, or by addressing the nearest of the undersigned representatives of the "Central."

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NOTICE OF SALE.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an action in partition and by virtue of an order of sale therein made by Lincoln Frost, one of the judges of the District court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, on the 27th day of December, 1902, in an action pending in said court wherein Nora Clark is plaintiff and John W. Biff et al., are defendants, the undersigned referees will at 2 o'clock on Saturday, the 31st day of January, 1903, at the east door of the court house in Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, lot four of block sixty-three of Havelock, Lancaster county, Nebraska, including the buildings thereon, to be sold as one parcel.

F. L. SUMPTER,  
G. L. LAWS,  
NIELS JOHNSON.

GREAT CROPS OF STRAWBERRIES

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The best book on strawberry growing ever written. It tells how to grow the biggest crops of big berries ever produced. The book is a treatise on Plant Physiology and explains how to make plants bear Big Berries and Lots of Them. The only thorough scientific grown Strawberry Plants to be had for spring planting. One of them is worth a dozen common scrub plants. **BIG RED BERRIES.** The book is sent free to all readers of the NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT. Send your address to **R. M. KELLOGG, THREE RIVERS, MICH.**