

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

ESTABLISHED 1889

Published Every Thursday
900 P St.,
Lincoln, Nebraska

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter, under the act of congress of March 3, 1879.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

Subscriptions—All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago.

Change of Address—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give the OLD as well as the NEW address.

Advertising Rates furnished upon application.

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THE INDEPENDENT,
Lincoln, Neb.

Governor Swettenham and his priggishness cannot be forgotten too soon. Any boor can insult his neighbor and the greater boor he is the more likely he is to do something of the kind. Why should the world be all torn up and people's feelings rasped by conduct which could come from nobody worthy of our consideration? There is no reason for it, and yet our reason in such a case is one of the hardest things in the world to live up to.

If the country expresses any disgust whatever over the action of congress in raising the salaries of members to \$7,500 a year, it will be with the ostrich-like behavior of the house in passing the bill rather than because of the raise itself. Such an exhibition of pusillanimity as that of the house in cramming the bill through without a roll call in the evident hope of preventing the public from knowing what particular congressmen were responsible for the measure, does not increase public confidence in that body. The president will doubtless sign the bill, and public opinion will approve the act as making for greater independence in the less wealthy members.

As matters in the theatrical world are now going the citizens of Beatrice need not mourn excessively over the prospective closing of the Paddock opera house. The scarcity of good companies "on the road" is becoming a source of real concern to the patrons of the theater in all of the smaller western cities. The ability of the large cities to keep the best actors profitably employed without disagreeable railroad journeys is leaving the communities of less than 200,000 people in a bad way for strong and artistic theatrical performances. If it were not for the trend toward vaudeville it might be possible to fill the need by the organization of local stock companies. As the case stands there is nothing for the public to do but await the next turn in the development of their amusements. They have at least the poor satisfaction of knowing that any future change cannot be for the worse.

The action of the house in killing the unlicensed veterinarian bill is really in harmony with the provisions of the national law which prohibits the misbranding of food products. The government is inclined to allow considerable latitude in the preparation and sale of various products, but it is beginning to insist that the label shall declare exactly what each package contains. So it is with the practice of the various branches of medicine. The public has apparently reached the conclusion that it is only fair to allow the practice of various kinds of healing, but that no man shall put up a misleading sign. If a man has no degree or has passed no official examination he may do his best to cure distempers in horses and cows, but he is not permitted to declare himself a veterinary surgeon. The action of the house is

sensible and eminently fair to all interests. If a practitioner in the course of time becomes learned enough to deserve the title he can get it by passing an examination.

It is notorious in the business circles of the west that the city of Denver is paying too high a rate on nearly all classes of freight, and yet the case made before the interstate commerce commission has not been entirely conclusive. Possibly this has been due to a desire on the part of Denver to hide the fact that certain advantages have been secured in the past. For fear of losing these special rates the attorneys for the city have evidently failed to go into the whole question with the vigor that was needed to bring about a clean readjustment. Virtually all commercial cities have certain more or less unjust advantages in freights, but these are put in the background while a tremendous uproar is made over other schedules that are less favorable.

New York reports the receipt of the first large consignments of denatured alcohol. The product came from the distilleries at Peoria, and the wholesale price reduced to a Peoria basis and not counting the container is 29 cents a gallon. This was for an order of 400,000 gallons. The fact that the product sells so cheaply under present conditions and so soon after the removal of the tax gives hope that Representative Marshall's bill amending the free alcohol law would put alcohol in position to compete largely with gasoline and coal oil. Mr. Marshall's bill provides that small distilleries which make none but denatured alcohol may construct cisterns or tanks into which all distilled spirit must run, the container to be sealed by the revenue officer so that there is no opportunity to evade the law during his absence. This would permit the use of small distilleries which would need to be visited only at considerable intervals by a revenue officer, meanwhile permitting waste farm products to be made up into alcohol at the convenience of the distiller.

A BIG PORK BARREL.

It was understood last year that a river and harbor bill of generous proportions had been promised in order to induce some members of congress to support needed legislation. The bill has made its appearance after election as all such pie cutting bills must, and it will be the most generous in our history if it goes through according to program. And there is no reason why it should not go through. The pork is cut in many pieces. The advocates of the deep waterway from the great lakes to the gulf are to scratch the backs of the advocates of a dredged Delaware in consideration of a return favor, the Missouri will get a heaping bite, so will the Chicago and the Calumet, the Illinois and the Ohio. No doubt most of the public money thus put in circulation in the districts of at least a majority of the congressmen and senators will be well spent, and will help in the solution of the railroad problem. If some waste creeps in it is our own fault. We judge our congressman very much according to what he can "get for his district" in the way of appropriations for pensions, postoffices and such objects as the river and harbor bill contemplates.

PURE DRUGS SCARCE.

A measure of the effectiveness of one department of the pure food law is gained from the complaints of metropolitan druggists of inability to get their orders for patent medicines filled with any degree of promptness. One New York druggist recited his inability to get more than one-fifth of the articles ordered. The reason lies in the conditions attached to the orders. Retail dealers, to protect themselves, stamp their orders for drugs and proprietary preparations with some such proviso as this: "All goods on this order must comply with food and drugs act, June 30, 1906, and guar-

anteed printed on the package." The wholesaler from whom he orders has included a similar condition in his orders to manufacturers, with the result that orders cannot be filled with the law. Some manufacturers held off in hope of getting more favorable rulings from the government on points in which they were interested, but Dr. Kebler, chief of the drug laboratory at Washington, has announced that the law is "hog tight," an indication that no quarter can be expected there. The patent medicine makers are neglecting a golden opportunity in not ascribing the epidemics of various sorts now prevailing throughout the country to this sudden cutting off of the supply of health preservers.

MEDICINE AND MORTAL ERROR.

Right is right, and it wrongs no one. A man who isn't a veterinary surgeon has no business to advertise himself as such, even if he does know how much aconite a sick horse can swallow without killing it outright. If a man passes for just what he is and no more, then the man who employs him does so at his own risk. In the matter of the Christian science healer and the law which proposes to set him aside, the situation is very different. This man doesn't pretend to be a surgeon. He doesn't give medicine, recommend this article of diet in preference to the other. He recognizes you as an immortal essence temporarily resident in a package of mortal error. If you have a belief of suffering, you are the victim of a mortal miscalculation. You are wrestling with or bother with sanitary conditions, or with a knot tied in it. It is a mental one of the many forms of unreality deviation from the spiritual normality. The remedy is to straighten you out; to get you back in line with the eternal verities, and drugs won't do it; neither will diet, nor Turkish baths, nor the laying on of hands, nor the prayers of those who don't know how to pray according to the formula of divine science. There is the plan, and he who accepts it does so at his own risk. If he gets well, glory be; if he dies trying, who shall say it was the worst thing that could have happened to him?

ENDORING LA FOLLETTE.

Reckless, idealistic, aspiring youth can usually be found behind the man who fights uphill for a principle. It is the most natural of things that the first formal movement to make Senator La Follette a candidate for president in 1908 should be launched by students of a state university. That it should be the university of Mr. La Follette's own state is the more creditable to the man. "We heartily approve of the actions of Senator La Follette, both as governor and as senator. As individuals and as an organization we pledge ourselves to work for the nomination of Senator La Follette for president in 1908." This resolution is the text of the La Follette presidential club just formed at Madison. In eight years of ceaseless, bitter battle Governor La Follette made his state the envy of patriotic people of other states. Beginning with a state governed largely by the railroads, he secured just taxation of corporations, state supervision of railroad rates, the right of the people to make nominations to office, and left the state government in the hands of the voters. In his first four months in the senate, a period when new senators are supposed to remain obscured by the mantle of "senatorial courtesy," he blocked a grab of coal and oil lands in Indian territory, was in himself a host in the battle for the rate bill, brought about the grain elevator investigation, and forced through the employers' liability bill. Since the present session convened the man who was marked for a hazing has been instrumental in securing the passage of the bill limiting the hours of continuous labor on the railways in the interest of public safety. Is it strange that the Madison students "heartily approve of the actions of Senator La Follette both as governor and as senator?"

THE BAILEY INQUIRY.

It is a pity the investigation of Senator Bailey cannot be made out in the sunlight before somebody possessing public confidence, as the current investigations by the interstate commerce commission are held. There is

doubt in the minds of judicial observers as to the real facts in his case, doubts that no star chamber investigation by partisan Texas legislators can remove. Bailey says there is a conspiracy on the part of the Standard Oil company by ruining him to remove their ablest enemy from the senate. He charges Hearst with assisting in this effort in order that Hearst may get control of the democratic party in Texas to the disadvantage of Bryan. But there are damaging appearances on the other side. His ringing in the name of Bryan has a demagogic air, for Bailey is not distinguished as a friend of Bryan though the people of Texas are. In lending him money and employing him as attorney the Standard Oil company and the railroads may have been stealthily laying a trap for him; and because of his refusal to serve them in the senate they may now be foreclosing a mortgage which he unconsciously assumed. But Bailey poses as a great man, and great men are not supposed to be so simple as this view shows him to have been. The newer charges assert various acts by which he is alleged to have turned his official position to his own profit. A secret session of a legislative committee is a poor court for the trial of such charges. It is painful to think that a conspiracy might efface an innocent public man, or that a man guilty of any or all the charges against Bailey may be whitewashed in secret. More light is needed here than we are likely to get.

RUSSEL A. ALGER.

Senator Alger was not permitted to serve out his last term. William Alden Smith would have become entitled to the seat occupied since September, 1902, by Mr. Alger, and he will now doubtless be appointed to serve out the fragment of a term left vacant by death. It is too soon to make an estimate of Senator Alger's public services. He had a long career which did not grow brighter toward the close, although he occupied high places. His services in the civil war, which raised him from the rank of captain to that of major general entitled him to distinguished consideration throughout his life. He was governor of his state more than twenty years ago. In 1888 he received a hundred votes or more on all but one of the eight ballots of the national convention which nominated General Harrison. He was commander-in-chief at one time of the Grand Army of the Republic. His career as secretary of war at the time of the Spanish war was unfortunate. He was charged with responsibility for unsanitary camps, intolerable rations, the overcrowding and unfitness of transports, and the incompetence of subordinate officials. An investigating committee exonerated him in the main, but its report was not given full credit. As United States senator he has not occupied a prominent place. He had amassed a large fortune in the lumber business, and his views and votes in the senate were commonly regarded as representing in the main the business interests with which he was affiliated.

At the meeting of the lumbermen's association in Lincoln during the past week a letter was read from the Rocky mountain coal men's association proposing a remedy for the shortage in coal that has been a disturbing feature of business everywhere during the present season. The remedy is simple and practical. If every well established coal dealer in Kansas and Nebraska will increase his storage one-third or one-half and stock up during the summer with the grades of coal that keep without deterioration, keeping it until the pinch comes in car service in the dead of winter, coal famines will no longer menace the people of these states. In order to encourage the dealers to adopt this policy the coal miners have agreed to make a summer price on storage coal that will cover the cost of storage, the loss from waste and interest on the capital that is tied up in the operation. The dealer will need more capital, but in the end he will profit handsomely because he will be able to do business all through the year, when his competitor who may be working on the hand to mouth basis is periodically knocked over the ropes. The advice is so sound that it will no doubt be accepted by a large number of dealers in the plains region during the coming year.

Portuguese East Africa is now a real paradise for nimrods. British Africa is fast becoming a vast continental preserve, while the Portuguese dominions are not only open, but inviting. Lions abound, it appears, in the territories of the Portuguese company of the Boror region, which covers a vast extent of territory, to a degree which has become quite intolerable even for easy Portuguese ways. A proclamation has accordingly been published, in the terms of which the company undertakes to pay \$25 for every lion's head brought in and to leave the skin to the slayer.