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During the year ending February 1 the money supply of the country increased by over \$322,000,000. This brings the per capita circulation up to \$33.96, the greatest in our history. Yet the volume of business and speculation is so great as to absorb it all and call for more.

The movement toward a general two-cent railroad fare is steadily gathering momentum this winter. The Iowa house has passed such a bill by a vote of 106 to 0. In West Virginia the house has passed the senate bill to the same effect. This is the record made yesterday, with a good many state capitals yet to hear from.

Nebraska people are not forgetting that an effective pure food law is one of the things expected of the present legislature. The platform of the majority party numbers among the noteworthy achievements of the party in congress the enactment of a pure food law. Equally noteworthy in its smaller sphere will be a Nebraska pure food law of like tenor.

It required three months to empanel a jury in the recent Shea trial in Chicago which ended in a hung jury. The second trial of this case has now begun, and a jury was empaneled in just one-tenth the time taken in the first case. The difference is said to be due in part to the severity of the presiding judge in dealing with the quibbling of lawyers and the evasions of talesmen. Public disgust with the previous performance also had something to do with the change.

Mrs. "Stonewall" Jackson, widow of the greatest general but one of the confederacy comes into notice in a pleasant way following the recent celebration in honor of the centenary of the confederacy's greatest general, Lee. The legislature of North Carolina proposed to grant Mrs. Jackson a pension of \$100 a month. Mrs. Jackson is by no means wealthy, but she wrote a letter asking that the appropriation be not made, since that would be a discrimination against others more in need. In this connection it is interesting to remember that there are 100,000 living veterans of the union army of the civil war who are eligible to pensions but have never applied.

As soon as the alienists have settled the Thaw case their attention is needed in Arizona. An entire legislature has apparently gone daffy. Business has been deliberately sacrificed, people driven to other states to trade, one of the greatest institutions of the territory driven out, by a single simpleton act of legislation. The legislature has prohibited gambling. Thus the very spice of life has been eliminated from our most unconventional territory. How the legislature can justify its revolutionary act in destroying one

of the territory's chief enterprises is a mystery. Perhaps it expects that something better will come in to take the place of the sacrifice, something, perhaps, that will create prosperity instead of merely transfer it from one man's pocket to another's.

Under the patronage of the Japanese government \$300,000 worth of cotton was grown in Korea last year and exported. The area in cotton in India is this year to be a million acres greater than last year, with an anticipated yield of five million bales, about half the yield of cotton in the United States. This last report would tax our credulity but for the fact that the Indian yield in 1904 was nearly four million bales. In 1899 India and China together produced but 607,000 bales of cotton. That year the world crop of cotton was 13,110,000 bales, of which this country produced 11,189,000. Last year the total was 17,944,000 bales of which our southern states produced 13,420,000. We still control the field in cotton production, but under the persistent efforts of other countries, such as Japan in Korea, our proportion to the total yield has temporarily at least, lessened.

Receiver Gifford of the local land office calls attention to one of the farm delights of the present season. Mr. Gifford remembers when hogs sold on the market in Nebraska for two cents a pound. He has just held a sale of Duroc Jerseys that brought an average of \$43.56 a head. This is no isolated case, for about the time of his Pawnee county sale a Washington county farmer held a sale in which the average price paid was \$58.46, one animal going to a Boone county bidder for \$250. These sales were of fancy stock, but the market price is in strict keeping. It does not take much of a porker this winter to bring better than twenty dollars on the scales, for Nebraska hogs are not bred for speed as is said to be necessary in some parts of the south. In spite of the continued high price of corn Nebraska farmers are producing these high priced swine at a cost probably little if any higher than in the earlier day of cheaper feed. Better stock to begin with and alfalfa hay and pasture to grow on make the difference. With hogs quoted close around seven cents on the Missouri river markets the price of Nebraska land does not tend to fall.

Theorizing that the vitality of the high school fraternity indicates a need of high school human nature that must be met, a Chicago patrons' association proposes a fraternity minus the objectionable features as they now exist. The two leading objectionable features are the want of democracy since only a limited few can gain membership in fraternities; and the dangers involved in their irresponsible secrecy. The Chicago patrons propose to meet the social demand for the fraternity by a properly equipped club for high school boys, the club to be sustained by dues, to be in the main under control of the members, and open to all students of the school. The experiment is worth making, perhaps, but it must be observed that the plan leaves out the mainspring in human nature of the fraternity, namely, its exclusiveness. If there were enough fraternities so that everybody could belong to one or more, it is a question whether they would not fall by reason of their very commonness, their failure to satisfy the demand for personal distinction and exclusiveness.

Twenty years ago a considerable portion of the people of the United States awaited the announcement of the grand winners in the monthly Louisiana drawings with more than the interest with which about the same proportion of the people now await the issue of a prize fight. The winners were invested with columns of fame, at the expense of the lottery company. Interviews were printed in the papers and they always told in

these interviews what use they intended to make of their new wealth. They would build a house for Molly and the baby, of course, but always received first a generous amount with which to buy more of those beneficent lottery tickets. Finally the government sat down on this form of gambling, and the people turned their attention to bucket shops and mining stocks. But not all. The Louisiana lottery, operating from Central America, sells still, it is alleged, \$200,000 worth a month of lottery tickets in the United States. We never hear of it, for the press is not allowed to advertise nor the mails to carry any lottery business. The business is done mainly by express. Which reminds us that express companies are now subject to the interstate commerce laws as common carriers.

Socrates, son of Sophroniscus and husband of Xantippe, synonym of philosophy, prototype of ugliness and the original interrogation point, was in the year 399 B. C. condemned to death in Athens on the charge "firstly, of denying the gods recognized by the state and introducing new divinities, and secondly of corrupting the young." As Professor Lees points out in his masterly defense of Xantippe, Socrates prized freedom too greatly not to be poor. Accordingly he was a stranger to shoes or shirt. Moreover he was in such vogue in Athens as to threaten to set the fashion. Despite the virtue sounding charge of impiety and miseducator made against the greatest personality of his age, therefore, a sinister suspicion creeps upon the student when he reads that one of bare foot Socrates' accusers was Anytus, a tanner. And so a news item of the present week carries us back these twenty-three hundred years. "A firm in Athens imported five hundred pairs of American shoes last year and sold them readily," says the report. "The Greek shoemakers became alarmed, besieged their legislators and succeeded in forcing the imposition of a prohibitive tariff duty on American shoes." They did things more bloodily at Athens in the days of Socrates and St. Paul, it seems, but they get there just the same even now.

Little is said of the matter abroad, but congress, which is the city council of the town of Washington, is not a little troubled by race problems incident to that capacity. Washington is a southern city, and its adult population is more than a third colored. Of course in a national city equality before the law cannot be winked at, and so the colored people have never had to complain of any curtailment of their privileges. Indeed, some of the white folks have at times complained that the usual case tends to be reversed. The problem that now arises is not, however, a clash of white and black, but an attempt to subdivide the race question on the part of those of intermediate race. In fine, the mulattoes are said to be making objections to attending the same school with "black niggers." The justice of bunching all negroes of all shades together in the "Jim Crow" class has not heretofore been discussed, but there is evidently a matter to discuss. Can it be we are coming to separate schools for mulattoes, for quadroons, for octoroons, and for whites, with special compartments in street cars for each class? Four; isn't that the number of castes in India?

Much has been said against the protection of the infant wolf industry by placing bounties on wolf scalps in Nebraska. So little has been said in answer except to explain that this is one way to get money into circulation, that many people have formed the idea that there is really no good at all in the system. They forget the lines of Pope, "And spite of pride, in erring reason's spite, one truth is plain, whatever is, is right." In Wisconsin there is a bounty of \$20 on each pair of wolf ears. The clerk of Clark county was

recently approached by an Indian from near Chippewa Falls, who had five pairs of wolf ears. This called for \$100, an order for which was promptly handed over. After the Indian had gone the clerk noticed a strong resemblance in shape and color among the five pairs of ears, and a close investigation revealed that they were all made out of a single wolf skin sewed into ear shapes with wonderful skill and taste. A man of fine sensibilities would have been enchanted to think that so sordid a thing as a wolf bounty could be the means of developing in the untutored savage such artistic conception and skill together with business instincts that a white man might envy; but this county clerk lacked in the finer instincts. He sent the enterprising needlework genius to jail.

Socialists are fond of saying that the Rockefellers, Ryans, and other prominent examples of money making by grace of special privilege differ from their critics only in degree; that practically everybody is fighting for advantage in exactly the same spirit and by the same methods, but with less success, hence the complaints. This explains, the socialists say, why special privileges can not be done away with under the present system. Every man hesitates to destroy another's privilege because he hopes later to gain it himself.

The Clay county farmers refute this theory. Under the pretense of distributing rare and costly seeds for the benefit of agriculture, congress has used government funds to bid for the friendship of the farmers by presents of cheap and common garden seeds. This places a low estimate on the price of the average farmer's friendship, but it seems to have given results, for congress clings to the practice with all the warmth with which the railroads hold on to the right to be generous with railroad passes. Clay county farmers resent the free seed distribution as an insinuation that they are ready to sell their citizenship for a nibble at the public spoils, and in their farmers' institute request that the practice be stopped. It must be said in justice to the Nebraska congressmen that one of them announces that he will send no seeds unless specially requested, and that several have consistently voted against the free seed appropriation.

THE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS.

"To obtain for those serving and for those served, all the rights and benefits to which they are entitled," is the announced aim of the Lincoln teachers' federation. The movements of the organization if it prove an active body, will be observed with profound interest at home and abroad. The pioneer order of this sort, the Chicago teachers' federation is a prominent issue in the politics of that much vexed town. Organized first for the purpose of bringing the big tax dodgers to book in order that tax money might be forthcoming to pay their own meager salaries, the Chicago teachers have retained their organization, allied themselves with the labor unions, and under the lead of valiant Margaret Haley have wrested the privilege of saying a few things for themselves regarding the "rights and benefits" to which the "servers" are entitled. Tremendous opposition has been manifested to the idea of unionizing the teachers. Nicholas Murray Butler objects on the ground that public servants cannot safely be trusted to organize for selfish ends. "If the teachers are to organize," he says, why not the firemen, and if the firemen, why not the police, and if the police, why not the army? Then we might have the spectacle of an army striking upon the eve of a battle to defend the country." Or, doubtless he would say, on some Monday in September we might find the machinery of education blocked by a general teachers' strike.

Dr. Andrew S. Draper of New York admits that teachers are underpaid and overworked, but thinks it impossi-