source of history that will become of incalculable value in future years. In his books and in his newspaper correspondence he was always aflame with enthusiasm. He foresaw the present greatness of Nebraska forty years ago, and predicted it with fine imagination and spirit. He lived a simple, wholesome life and was so much engrossed in rejoicing over the prosperity of the state and the happiness of those about him that he had no time to accumulate for himself the land and property that he knew would soon become of great value. It is impossible to over estimate the worth of the services rendered by this unquenchable Nebraska optimist.

## THE GOVERNOR'S ATTITUDE.

Governor Sheldon will allow the two cent fare bill to become a law without his signature. He was on record in his campaign speeches as favoring a reduction in passenger rates, but refused to endorse a flat reduction of two cents a mile for fear the weaker roads would prove it to be unremunerative. Rather than run the risk of losing the entire law, he was in favor of putting the question in the hands of the state railway commission, which he believed would be able to force the main lines at least to grant the reduced rate. When the bill comes from the legislature making the flat reduction, Governor Sheldon remains true to his original position, but cannot disapprove of a measure passed by his party and very generally desired by the public. He therefore allows it to become a law, but places the responsibility upon the legislature.

This is one of the few important matters to come before the governor since his inauguration. His manner of dealing with it will be no surpise to the Nebraskans who know the man and his character. His determination to be decisive in dealing with corporation problems is not in the least weakened by his desire to be effective and

### DORMANT LAWS.

Other nations criticise Americans for making laws which they never enforce and which are never meant to be enforced. A considerable section of the public, less than a ma-jority, demands a law on some sub-The law is accommodatingly passed to appease them, and then everybody forgets about it. Such a law is the anti-treating law on the Nebraska statutes, which is violated ten thousand times a day in Nebraska, and for violating which but one man was ever arrested, and he was allowed to escape. The anti-cigarette law is another example. The tipping law may be a third. Most such laws can be forgotten, for their violation is not forced upon public attention. But when men not only ignore but expectorate upon a statute the case is different, and that is the condition regarding the Lincoln anti-spitting ordinance. This is a law which it would benefit the public health and decency While it would be imto enforce. possible absolutely to prevent the defiling of sidewalks the enforcement of the law whenever possible would have a restraining and an educative effect. If a majority of the citizens wish to retain the privilege of spitting on the sidewalks the law should of course be repealed. No better way to ascertain the sentiment on this point could be devised than to try enforcing it.

## THE MUTUAL FARCE.

Over four hundred thousand votes were cast in the election of trustees for the New York Life Insurance company. Inspectors drawing pay at the rate of \$35 a day have been counting the votes or getting ready to count them since December 18. They now make a preliminary report showing the administration ticket to have won by about two to one. This elec-

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ard county and his books constitute a tion if it has done nothing else, has shown the futility of hoping to govern a great life insurance company through the policyholders thereof. For the first, and probably for the last time in a generation the policyholders had an organization of their own in this election. Tremendous scandals due to misconduct of the companies by the men who still control them, excited general interest and made possible an organized contest. This contest merely proved the hopelessness of removing from office trustees in possession of all the machinery of the company, its agents, books, the influence wielded by control of so great a mass of policyholders' money. Mutual life insurance on a large scale is a will o' the wisn if this experience teaches anything. control that seems possiblbe must come through political means, by legislation and the election of governors who will enforce the laws.

## LANGUAGE REFORM.

Japanese school children of average intelligence require nine years to learn to read. Japanese school children are as intelligent as any school children, but they are hampered by their Chinese system of writing, which requires the memorizing of thousands of forms before one can begin to read. The leaders of Japanese thought declare that this system cannot remain; that it has already held Japan back for centuries, and that it is impossible if the pace set by other civilized nations is to be maintained. Progress has already been made in romanizing the Japanese language. A society that might be called the Japanese spelling reform association is actively pushing the movement. But the alert Japanese are not certain that this is the limit of what is to be gained by simplification of the means of communication. Already for better dealings with other peoples the public schools teach English and German and French; but the labor of learning four languages is an undeniable handicap. One Hasegawa has lately constructed a bridge from Japanese to Esperanto, the proposed "world" language, which has already made more headway than all the artificial languages hitherto proposed have made combined. The first edition of his text book was exhausted in two days, and it is now in the third edition. California proposes to disable Japanese from owning land in that state. This bulwark against the competition of a people so unrestrained by custom as the Japanese prove to be in their search for the best is not altogether unreasonable in a country not willing to make the spread of efficiency easier by so much as striking the silent letters out of its language.

## ENLARGED FEDERAL AID.

Congress has taken action looking toward a large increase in the funds set apart for the support of the agricultural experiment stations in the The acceptance by the conference committee of the endowment for agricultural colleges indicates that an immediate addition of \$5,000 a year will be made to the "Morrill fund," and that the same amount will be added every year for five years. The Adams and Hatch funds amount This will bring the total of this fund up to \$50,000 at the end of five years. to \$20,000 more. This means that the federal government will give outright from the national treasury the sum of \$70,000 yearly for the support of the agricultural college and experiment station of the university of Nebraska. This is in addition to the large endowment of public lands given in the orginal state university act of more than forty years ago, Now these Morrill, Hatch and Adams

funds are given solely for teaching and experimentation. None of the money can be used for buildings or repairs. To secure the advantages of these large grants the state must provide lands, buildings and equipment to make the best possible use of the funds. A state that does not desire to co-operate with the Washington authorities in carrying on these experiment stations and agricultural colleges to the extent of providing a suitable plant for the work will be stricken off the appropriation list.

Nebraska has provided excellent lands at Lincoln and at North Platte for college and station work. A good start has been made in providing buildings and equipment, but it is only a start. It will be necessary to erect at least half a dozen buildings on the college farm before the state can be said to have complied with the terms of the national grant. For that reason it will not be profitable to allow the present legislative session to pass without making substantial provision for meeting the new demands put up-on the state by the enlarged aid soon to come to the university from Wash-

Revolvers would be less dangerous were it not for the fact that a person foolish enough to carry one in apt to be foolish enough to use it.

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## CHEAP POWER.

Since only a single amendment apparently of no particular importance was added by the senate to the house bill to improve the free alcohol law. the success of the measure now seems assured. By all odds this promises to be the most beneficent act of the present session, and one of the best of any session. After the free alcohol law of the last session was passed it was discovered that the manufacture of denatured alcohol was by the regulations of that measure left in the hands distillers large enough to maintain bonded warehouses. This defeated one of the chief objects hoped for from untaxed industrial alcohol, the opportunity of turning the waste products of farms and cities into heat and power. The new bill permits sealed tanks to serve the place of bonded warehouses, so that small stills can be located on farms and operated at convenience, the denaturing to be done under the eye of a government agent when the sealed receptacle is full. This admits industrial alcohol to manufacture under the most favorable conditions possible except for the possibility that the wood alcohol manufacturers, whose product is required in the denaturing process, should hold their prices unreasonably high. The bill also permits ether to be made from tax free alcohol. The senate showed an encouraging capacity to break away from the Aldrich clique of senators in passing the ill, and particularly in rejecting the amendment suggested by Mr. Aldrich's committee, requiring a government storekeeper to be stationed at every point where alcohol is made.

Coincident with the passage of the improved law comes a bulletin from the department of agriculture discuss ing the probable usefulness of alcohol in gas engines for farm use. The experience of Germany is drawn upon, as well as inquiries and tests in this country. This discussion makes it appear that denatured alcohol will finally be at least a potential competitor of gasotine for use in gas engines. With proper manipulation alcohol can be used successfully in place of gasoline in any engine using gasoline. An engine of given size can be made to generate greater power when run by alcohol than by gasoline, but a corresponding increase in the consumption of fuel is required. The exhaust when alcohol is used is less offensive. There is less danger of fire, and alcohol should on this account at once supersede gasoline as a fuel for propelling boats. The engine will probably be easier to keep in order when alcohol is used. This report gives alcohol a smaller compar-

ative value for power uses than is usually accredited it, the statement being that the small engine used in the experiment required 1.8 times as great a weight of alcohol to produce a given result as was required of gasoline. This being the case the use of alcohol in motors must increase but slowly as the increasing use of gas engines and the diminishing supply of gasoline calls it gradually into service.

## STRIKE A BALANCE.

"Great Hardships for Bankers and Editors" is the title of an article in the Northwestern Banker of Des Moines, the substance of which is graphically portrayed in this table;

THEN. Railroad fare ...... 0.00 Pullman 2.00 Cigars, etc. 1.00 Dining car ...... 100 Pillow ..... Meals ..... Cigars ..... To offset which should be suggested the following for some five hundred unprivileged persons for every banker or editor or politician: NOW. 

"Prices broke with violence in the later dealings in the stock market today," said yesterday's New York financial reports. Anti-railroad legislation is not mentioned among the causes, although the stocks of certain railway systems were prominent to the slump. Investors seem rather more afraid of Harriman playing horse with railroad stocks than of a public put-

each; total ...... 3,500

If people were hung for kicking. the average traveling man would be kept dodging the rope

ting a curb on railroad rates.

