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Lincoln, Neb.**

The term "fake reformer" has suddenly gone out of use in Nebraska. The legislature was made up of the real article.

A good sound law prohibiting the donation of campaign funds by corporations will naturally be one result of the publication of Mr. Harriman's private correspondence.

Last year's furore over the cost of government printing resulted in an order that each department should be charged with the cost of its own printing. The direct result has been a drop in the nation's print bill from \$7,500,000 to about \$5,500,000 a year.

The White Star liner Suevic which went on the rocks a couple of weeks ago has been torn in two parts with dynamite and the after part has been towed into port. This demonstration of the value of the watertight compartments in modern ship construction is worth years of argument. It is a demonstration that demonstrates.

The complete dropping out of sight ure it at two cents a gallon, or about one sixth of the price that formerly prevailed. At this figure it is possible cess has been discovered to manufacture of liquid air is recalled by the announcement from England that a prothat a few of the promises made when the substance was new may be fulfilled.

The World-Herald is "frank to say that the best legislature Nebraska has ever had, judging from results, is that which is just passed into history." Next to the record of the legislature, this word of non-partisan praise is the most gratifying political incident of recent years. An "era of good feeling" and political sanity is certainly upon us.

The two American telegraph companies after twenty-five years of unchanged rates have simultaneously clapped on a substantial raise. Whether the coincidence is due to telepathy or telegraphy we cannot tell. The telegraph companies do not issue public statements of their affairs although they are public service corporations and common carriers.

House roll No. 162 was passed without the emergency clause, so it will become a law on or about the first day of July. It prohibits the shooting of elk, deer, beaver and antelope. It is a good law, but it comes a few years late. The harvest was gathered while previous legislatures slept. No need to lock the barn; the horse is not there.

Charles F. Murphy, New York Tammany boss, has been pried loose from a public contract worth \$539,000 which he was able to get as a perquisite of his bossship. This illustrates the high price paid by good people for the hour a year they save by not going to the primaries. The man who, like Mr. Murphy, spends all his time at the

primaries, makes what they lose and the others who must suffer with them for their neglect.

That unusual sound rolling down from the north is the Union Pacific railroad calling in its last issue of annual passes. The minor tone is the voice of Ben White performing a similar duty for the Northwestern. The Burlington isn't saying much just now; it reformed in a large measure before the law made it obligatory.

The Omaha railroad man who believes that the anti-pass law can be nullified by selling tickets for a dime to favored people does not know that this sort of thing has been covered by the discrimination clause in the railroad commission bill. The companies must sell at the same price to everybody or suffer prosecution and the prospect of large penalties.

Minnesota prides herself on having built a four million dollar capitol without a suspicion of graft attaching to the work. The History of this building ought to be written. With it should go a history in full detail of the Pennsylvania capitol, this latter containing an appendix showing the number of years in prison assigned to each thief. The two volumes would make an exhibit that ought to be in every public library.

Senator Foraker appears to have the active assistance of John M. Thurston, formerly a senator from Nebraska, in his campaign for the defeat of the Roosevelt policies in the next presidential election. His slogan is something to the effect that this is "not a one man country." But John will find that it is pretty unanimously a one idea country just now, and that idea will cause the election of a man who represents the Roosevelt idea of government.

The state salutes Speaker Dan Nettleton, and congratulates him upon the zeal and ability with which he watched the interests of the people during the entire session of the legislature. Mr. Nettleton has a long and honorable record in the service of the public, all of it of such a nature that it led up logically to the square deal triumph of this session. It is given to few citizens of a state to labor so long for a cause and then to be permitted to participate in the victory as Mr. Nettleton was in his occupancy of the speaker's chair.

Senator Raynor's talk of a southern democratic candidate for president next year is a part of the complimentary pre-convention voting with which the south is wont to be taffied at this stage of the proceeding. As long as the south makes the negro its paramount political issue it will have to support whatever democratic candidate and democratic platform the northern states decide upon. And it is not the custom for a minority party to manufacture candidates from states that are already locked up in that party's burglar proof safe.

Who killed Cock Robin? There he lies dead, now in the stark form of the free pass, now the still corpse of the convention manipulator, again the dead shape of the arbitrary dispenser of railroad rates and service. What true eye aimed the lucky arrow? There is no doubting the identity of the arrow, its name is the legislature, and a straight, well pointed, well feathered arrow it was. But who was the bow, and most important of all, what arm bent the bow and what eye aimed the arrow? Was it the politician, the farmer, the laborer, the preacher, the governor, the newspaper? Inquests are profitless things. The great fact is not disputed, Cock Robin is dead, and that suffices. But if it is necessary to know who killed the pass and the convention boss and the irresponsible transportation power in Nebraska the answer is not far to seek. Nobody killed Cock Robin. Everybody did.

"Money on call easy, time loans very easy; bonds, government steady, railroad very strong; a material expansion of the volume of transactions in today's rising stock market," these are a few excerpts from yesterday's New York financial reports. If the railroad presidents have been right in their diagnosis of the cause of the late panic this sudden return to easy money and prosperity can be ascribed to no other cause than the adjournment of the Nebraska legislature.

Fifteen per cent of the wheat and twenty-five per cent of the oats crop of Oklahoma have been destroyed by the "green bug," according to a report of the secretary of the Oklahoma millers' association. The green bug is probably the wheat louse which occasionally may be found as far north as Nebraska but its ravages have not hitherto been of sufficient importance to gain it a place among the wheat enemies described by Professor Bruner in his recent report on the subject. The Oklahoma bug has begun to fly, doubtless in quest of juicier pastures, and the Kansas farmers will be in a state of anxiety for awhile.

Secretary Taft was met at Colon by a deputation of citizens who protested against the "unjust and intolerable conditions imposed in the carrying out of the sanitary improvements" in that city. Just as we should no doubt send delegations to protest if anybody were to enforce the sanitary requirement in Lincoln with regard to the defilement of sidewalks, or the requirement of public safety limiting the speed of automobiles on streets and particularly in swinging around corners. The difference is that the protesting part of the people of Colon do not have political control of the sanitary authorities, and must submit to a bath however strong their attachment to their old friend filth.

We will have to hurry if we are ever to see in its beauty the only serious competitor of Niagara falls. A New York engineer who is connected with the Victoria Falls Power company reports that plans have been laid for extracting 200,000 or more horse power from the falls and transmitting it to the Witwatersand, seven hundred miles distant. These fall are a thousand yards across, two-thirds the width of Niagara, and have a drop of 360 feet to Niagara's 164. With millions of people pleading for the salvation of Niagara our great waterfall is still in danger. The falls of the Zambesi have no defenders, and are likely in time to be entirely exhausted.

American indifference to the small leaks is exemplified in the immunity of the express companies. Passenger and freight rates and railroad dividends are criticised, but the express companies, taking their toll in dribbles have made more money than anybody, discriminating between patrons with perfect freedom, with nobody to say them nay. Not even when their influence in keeping postal merchandise rates abnormally high is realized, do they receive serious attention. A change in this respect is indicated by a grand jury investigation in Chicago, held to call several express companies to account for alleged discriminations in franking express matter for some people free of cost. Express companies are now common carries and subject to the same restrictions as railroad companies.

It will soon appear whether or not Governor Hughes of New York is equal to a really great emergency. After three months of give and take contest with the political ringsters, in which the governor, backed by solid public sentiment, has given a good account of himself, the situation has resolved itself into a deadlock. The governor demands the dismissal of Otto Kelsey, the state insurance commissioner whose chief function has been to shield the life insurance grafters. He demands the passage of the public utilities bill,

a measure intended to be to New York what the rate bill was to the United States and the Nebraska railroad commission bill to Nebraska. He asks also for a ballot law which shall not put a premium on ignorant or corrupt voting. The old guard in the senate has set its teeth against all these demands, and the governor proposes to appeal from the senate to the state. If he demonstrates the quality of bringing down such a storm of public rage about the heads of the black horse crew as to force a stampede, he should do for the presidency or for any other political work to which he may turn his hand.

One part of the plan to nominate a hostile successor to President Roosevelt is believed by the president to have its reliance in the popular demand for his own re-nomination. The anti-Roosevelt men in pro-Roosevelt states will join the Roosevelt chorus, secure instructions for Roosevelt, meanwhile taking care to select delegates whom they can control after Roosevelt has refused to accept the nomination as he says he would do in such case. That is to say, they will seek to name as the messengers whom we send to the bakery for bread, persons who can be relied upon to lapse into a saloon and spend the money for beer. To be aware of such a scheme ought to be enough to beat it.

Jean Finot in his book on the subject of race prejudice makes an interesting contribution to the argument that races are only fictions, and that the designation of some as inferior is only the excuse of one man for ruling another. That the blonde, square-headed Aryan is not the foreordained master of the earth, Gobineau, Virchow, Huxley and Taylor to the contrary notwithstanding is a sweeping assertion of the writer. The races are the produce of their environments; change the environment and you change the race. This view opens the prospect that our negro problem may be settled by assimilation without ultimate harm to anybody, and takes square issue with Spencer's advice to the Japanese to avoid mixing their blood with other races as they value their national efficiency.

The era of political good feeling has been marred by an era of ill feeling in a quarter where it had been suppressed though hardly absent before. The letter of ex-President Perkins of the Burlington condemning Colonel Harvey's attack on the president probably expresses the view of many in a similar situation. "For years I have felt that Roosevelt was a very serious menace to the nation's welfare; through his talent as an actor and his unscrupulous use of public patronage he has so far been able to carry the people with him; he has done an enormous amount of harm." These are a few of his sentences. They remind one of a time when a writer in the Richmond Chronicle declared that "Hamilton, Jay or King are devils incarnate," and of Thomas Paine writing Washington: "The world will be puzzled to decide whether you are an apostate or an impostor."

Europe spent last year about \$1,400,000,000 in military operations or preparations. This does not include the interest on public debts, the greater part of which represents past expenditures for the same purpose. These expenditures are nearly one third more than they were a decade before. The military expenses of the United States have increased at a greater ratio in the same time. The idea of putting a stop to this growth, if not to the excessive expenditure, has made some headway in this period, for the question of limitation of armament will be discussed at the coming conference if Great Britain and the United States have their way. It was not mentioned, except by Russia, eight years ago, but nothing is likely to come of the matter this year. Russia and Germany are not now represented by navies commensurate with their ambitions, and