

## 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.

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More than once in the last two years Senator Foraker has won the admiration of his opponents by his constancy in an unpopular and hopeless course. This admiration is of a kind to make him Casabianca Foraker rather than President Foraker.

The Wisconsin legislature has rejected a bill providing for what is called the Gothenburg license system for selling liquor. The bill proposed gives cities counties or towns authority to lease out a monopoly of liquor selling, the profits above a given percentage to go to the public treasury.

Kansas railroads are found by the interstate commerce commission to be valued by their managers at one price for purposes of taxation and at another and higher price for rate making purposes. The commission, says the report, was surprised. It is for everybody else to be surprised that the commission was surprised.

Emperor Nicholas has decreed that the families of military victims of terroristic outrages shall be pensioned along with those who lost their lives in the war with Japan. This appears to be a master stroke. Whenever the revolutionists kill a general they will simply be taxed to support his family. That ought to hold them.

It is discovered that the new Pennsylvania capitol building is not ventilated, and it will be necessary to spend \$100,000 to remedy the defect. But for the era of exposure this building might have been to the Pennsylvania machine the perennially "fresh" milk animal that the New York capitol has been to the New York organization.

Conservative estimates place the expenditures of the Thaw family in defense of Harry Thaw at \$235,000. A family with less money could not have spent so much and would have been forced to risk a proportionately less able and elaborate defense. This suggests one of the many reasons why men, despite the advice of all the world's sages, still labor to be rich.

The Maine legislature took cognizance of the pass evil long enough to enact a law prohibiting state officials from riding free. The railroads may not bribe a state officer, but if he displeases them they can put candidates on his track who can beat him with the help of free transportation. The western plan of a flat prohibition to all persons must sooner or later prevail everywhere.

The inspectors chosen at \$5 a day to look over the count of the ballots in the December election of the big insurance companies have already cost the policyholders of the New York Life and the Mutual Life the sum of \$27,000. One of the unpleasant features of these extravagant expenses is the argument heard repeatedly that the cost is "only" so many mills or so many cents to each

policyholder. The fact is that waste is waste and when it is a wicked waste the fact that it is allowed to continue is all the more deplorable. Even the expenditure of all of this money did not check fraud in the election, if there is any foundation in recent charges made by the policyholders' committee.

Five million dollars of New York state 3 per cent Erie canal bonds were floated successfully in New York after private capital had refused to buy at the required terms. The state happened to have a sinking fund to invest, and put it into the bonds. Happy the state that can own its own debt. Among the beneficent acts of the late Nebraska legislature was one to facilitate the buying of the state floating debt with state trust funds.

The most potent and important fact connected with this "era of good feeling" is the impossibility of dragooning the western democrats into support of another Parker nominee or inducing the western republicans to give their enthusiastic adherence to a "conservative" candidate for the presidency. If both parties nominate men with strong Roosevelt beliefs and records the political peace will continue unimpaired through the presidential campaign.

Being pestered by high school fraternities, one New England school board disposed of the matter in this way. Those students who were members were allowed to continue in school, but were forbidden to take in new members. Uninitiated members were forbidden under pain of expulsion from joining. Under this rule the fire would die in three years from lack of fresh fuel. The compulsory school attendance law, with its age limit raised by the late legislature to sixteen years, might interfere with such a rule in Nebraska.

Andrew D. White speaks pointedly on the status of Cuba, after a personal visit to the island. If it is capable of self government, he holds that it has a rightful place as an independent republic outside of the United States. If it is incapable of self government, then of course it has no place inside of the United States. The thing to do, according to Mr. White, is to "set up the government of Cuba on a firm basis. Set it up again and again, seventy times if necessary, rather than make it a part of our national system."

This week marks the beginning of the "congress" of the British empire, a colonial conference composed of the premiers of the self governing British colonies. Among the colonies represented are Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the new Transvaal colony, by its premier the General Botha who was lately in arms against Great Britain. This council has no authority, and Great Britain assumes no authority over it. It is held for moral effect mainly, its tendency to create currents of interest among the several parts of the empire. Americans note with interest the different spirit now prevailing between Great Britain and her American possessions. The lesson England learned then has something to do with her different relations with her present Anglo-Saxon colonies.

The growing use of cement in building operations makes it necessary to standardize that product for the safety of the public as well as for the protection of honest contractors. The builder of a large sky scraper can afford to have a chemist on the ground testing every sack, but the small builder must trust to the name on the sack, the reputation of the maker and the probability that the original contents have not been removed and an inferior cement substituted. Some of the manufacturers are now sealing their sacks in such a way that they cannot be tampered with and sending with each a consignment a copy of the test signed by the factory's chemist. The general adoption of some such plan seems to be obligatory, in view of the peril to life and property involved in the use of inferior material.

The California supreme court has finally decided the Torrens land transfer act constitutional. This makes it possible for a property owner to register his title and then transfer it without any more trouble than would be required to make a bill of sale for a horse. This method of dealing in land titles comes from Australia, but it is making much slower progress in this country than some other reforms imported from the same direction. The need for it is felt only now and then. If every man sold land as often as he votes, the pressure for its general adoption would be irresistible.

Massachusetts, usually considered in advance of other states in matters of legislation, has no general anti-pass law, and one is now under discussion in the legislature. Free passes to public officials have for some time been outlawed, but as everybody knows out this way, such a prohibition scarcely scratches the evil. To deny free transportation to an official while permitting the furnishing of passes to candidates and workers to get out and beat him in case he does not please the pass givers, is exactly the sort of anti-pass law a railroad politician would write.

The Lincoln Y. M. C. A. has offered to furnish an athletic program for one afternoon of the state fair that promises to arouse an immense amount of interest. Various sports and contests are proposed, participated in by athletes from all of the leading towns of the state. The added attendance from the places sending contestants ought to be alone large enough to pay the expenses of the meet, which in any event would not be greater than the cost of a single horse race. It is evident that a suggestion has been made that the board of managers may find exceedingly useful.

If all people understood the logic of gambling, knowing by mathematical evidence that the only person who can possibly win in the long run is the man who puts up the game, would men still gamble? It is suggested that schoolboys—and in view of the present bridge craze school girls should not be overlooked—ought to be instructed in this matter. Such an understanding ought to reduce the volume of the gambling business, the bucket shops, stock exchanges and racing pools along with the rest, but it would not eliminate the evil. Gambling for gambling's sake, even with a certainty of losing, seems to appeal to poor human nature.

Teachers in state universities, it is definitely decided, are not to participate in the pension fund for teachers provided by Andrew Carnegie. The trustees decide that it would not be best for the state universities to receive any benefits not voted by the people of the state, since to have it otherwise would detract from public pride and interest in publicly supported schools. They are probably right. Meanwhile the state universities will need bear in mind the extra inducements now to be held out by other schools to prospective teachers. Other things being equal the pension fund would give the state schools the leavings when it came to getting teachers.

Nebraska has probably gained more than its agricultural school and experiment station has cost on the single item of potatoes. Her farmers partly through efforts from this quarter have mostly abandoned the old method of using for seed the potatoes that were too small to eat. Dr. Jordan's address in Lincoln was a reminder that we are not taking the care to eliminate small human potatoes that farmers are learning to observe with reference to their vegetable crop. In Europe the biggest and bravest are sent out to be shot, or kept in the camps awaiting a chance to be shot, while the culms are left at home for seed. Result, Frenchmen, for example, two inches shorter on the average than the Frenchmen of a generation back. If the nations can-

not bring themselves to an agreement to avoid war, they might at least agree to select the best fit for the sacrifice instead of following the opposite course, otherwise the forces of selection see a to have men headed toward the grasshopper.

At last we know officially when is whisky. According to the pharmacopeia whisky is "an alcoholic liquor obtained by the distillation of the mash of fermented grain—usually a mixture of corn, wheat and rye, and at least two years old." But products under other processes of manufacture have claimed the name, such as those made of rectified alcohol mixed with water and colored to the tint of whisky of the pharmacopeia definition. The fight for a national pure food law was complicated and the law delayed by the rivalry among the makers of the different sorts of whisky, each bent on framing a law to suit its own purposes. The last word is a ruling by the attorney general that under the new pure food law all whisky must have a christian name as straight whisky, blended whisky, compound whisky, and imitation whisky. Every man can take his choice, which includes, of course, the choice of leaving them all alone.

When learned judges confront a problem in law which is without sacred precedent everybody thinks of Solomon and waits to see what happens. Such a case is that of the Fort Worth Railway vs. Travis, lately reported. Travis is a woman who was ejected from a railway car against her will. She sued for damages to pay for the ensuing "physical and mental suffering." At the trial the railway attorneys set up as a defense that Travis is a Christian scientist, who denies the existence for her of physical and mental suffering, and that she could not sincerely claim damages for suffering that did not exist. This contention was overruled by the judge and jury, but the higher court took the opposite view saying: "If she had such control of her feelings, or thought she had, as to render her insensible to pain when she willed to be, we see no reason why that circumstance should not have been considered by the jury in determining the extent of her suffering and the compensation to be made on account of it." Notwithstanding this decision the railroads will be wise to assume that it will be about as risky to presume on a Christian scientist's disbelief in pain as to smite a Christian on the assumption that he will turn the other cheek.

A salutary lesson for salacious journalism grows out of the fine of \$31,000 assessed this week against the New York Herald Publishing company. For years the Herald admitted to its "personal" column advertisements pandering to low forms of vice. New York people admitted to their houses without protest these papers with their column after column of thinly veiled advertisements of degrading resorts. Possibly they felt that in tolerating the exploitation of vice by real estate owners and permitting it to flaunt in the open to the profit of procurers and exploiters they were morally estopped from denying another business enterprise a part in the carrion merely because that enterprise happened to be a newspaper. A fair mind is apt to consider that if vice is to exist as a legitimate or as a tolerated business enterprise it should not be denied the right enjoyed by other businesses of pushing for patrons and profits by all the usual methods, among them being advertising. But for the activity of competitors the Herald would doubtless be disseminating its columns of suggestive "personals" still. Complaints to the federal authorities caused prosecution on the charge of sending obscene matter through the mails. To these charges the Herald company, through its proprietor, James Gordon Bennett, pleaded guilty.

During the closing days of the legislative session when the senate reduced the appropriation for state institutions located in Lincoln by a quarter of a million dollars the mem-