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Minnesota has this advantage over Nebraska: Fruit buds hold back until about the middle of May and only the plums that are late in getting ripe suffer from the frost.

A drowning man is hardly in a position to dictate a plan of rescue. Mr. Thaw might have fared better had he relied on the judgment of his attorneys instead of bossing the job himself.

The Illinois house believes in raising the pay of the members of the legislature from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year. The state is rich and prosperous, but will not stand this particular form of extravagance. A legislator of the Illinois variety isn't worth it.

At the age of seventy-four an Oklahoma criminal has started to serve a sentence of ninety-nine years. He hopes to receive the usual "time off" for good behavior, in which event he will be liberated in time to celebrate his 157th birthday anniversary outside the prison walls.

According to a Kansas City newspaper business property there has been "ridiculously low" for many years, but is now "approaching something near a permanent basis of investment." This is a delicate intimation that further advances in prices cannot be made with safety. In other words, beware of a boom.

One Nebraska man claims to have lost \$10,000 on his peach crop by reason of the late freezing weather. It is rather difficult to figure how one can lose a thing before he gets it. The peach crop is peculiarly subject to climatic conditions. If these conditions are not provided you have lost nothing, for there was nothing to lose.

All sorts of errors are made in conjecturing the sums received by attorneys in important cases. It was said Delmas was to receive \$100,000 for defending Harry Thaw. A revised estimate places the probable sum total at about \$25,000, which is at the rate of \$206.62 per day for four months. Almost any lawyer would call that good wages.

Without going into the details of the case of ex-Senator Patterson, the supreme court of the United States undoubtedly did right in deciding that he should pay his fine for speaking harshly of the Colorado supreme tribunal. One might go farther, in fact, and declare that any fine imposed upon any Denver editor will be found to be abundantly justified.

The report of the traffic manager of the Liverpool municipal railways shows that during the last year the system made a profit of \$415,000, after paying interest, a liberal sum for repairs, and putting \$137,400 into the municipal treasury as taxes. This was accom-

plished with a rate of fare averaging a little more than two cents. This report will be excellent material for the anti-municipal ownership propagandists in New York to gnaw on for a time. They may be able to make holes in the profits, but on its face the report makes a strong showing in favor of the public system.

One of the new laws passed by the Wisconsin legislature provides that the wife who has wealth in her own right shall be responsible for the board and keep of her unhappy husband who is not so blessed. She shall also be responsible for any reasonable debts contracted by him subsequent to the tying of the nuptial knot. Thus is man slowly obtaining the rights for which he has long contended in vain.

Inasmuch as the guilty railroad is liable to the same fines as the Standard Oil company in the rebate cases, the unfortunate Alton stockholders are due for another chill. The minimum fine in these cases amounts to \$1,463,000 and the maximum to \$29,260,000. To be mulcted to the latter amount would be almost as disastrous to the property as another period of Harriman ownership.

Reports from Ohio assert that the ruling of Attorney General Bonaparte requiring the labeling of whisky so as to indicate what kind of whisky it is has greatly aroused the Ohio distilling interests. They are preparing, it is said, to show their resentment by helping Foraker to carry Ohio against Taft. It is also reported that the anti-saloon league is for Foraker, the league being under the impression that Foraker has been an enemy of the saloons. There is evidently a mistake somewhere.

Unless this flood of raw labor can be directed to the south, where it is needed to an unlimited extent, it would be well to warn would-be immigrants that they are likely to have a hard time in the United States for several years. The employment agencies of the large cities make report that the supply of common labor has now far outrun the demand, and that the railroads are offering only a dollar and a half for rough labor instead of the two dollars or more that was gladly paid a year ago. If the Milwaukee and other roads suspend their Pacific coast extensions as a lesson to the president, and to the legislatures, as they threaten to do, the glut in the labor market will be a serious matter in the next few months.

It is to be feared that Colonel Van Horn of the Canadian Pacific is not entirely frank when he tells the public that he is "operating in countries where there is no such thing as railroad legislation, for which I am indeed thankful." The Canadian law matching the interstate commerce act passed by our own congress last June has been in force for a couple of years at least. In some respects it is more far-reaching than the American statute. It is possibly true that in Cuba, where the colonel has railroad interests, the republic is willing to offer large concessions to secure new roads, but in time regulation will come there as elsewhere. The public must regulate the roads or be regulated by them, and a free people will not hesitate long between these alternatives.

At a recent meeting of the Swiss club at Berne Dr. Schnyder made a report on the value of alcohol to mountain climbers. He found that a majority of mountain climbers carry some form of alcoholic liquor with them, but they agree upon the unwisdom of drinking it while there is work yet to be done. A Dutch alienist has taken a plebiscite of brain workers and finds a substantial agreement that alcohol is not a help to inspiration; Bjornstjerne Bjornson reports that he has always discarded literary sketches written under the stimulus of wine, having found them always morbid or unnatural. Auguste Rodin wrote:

"Alcohol is not for artists. Those who seek their inspiration in it are, like their work, doomed to early oblivion." All of which helps to reassure us that Lincoln can if necessary go through an entire month of sobriety without irreparable injury.

The governor of Florida seems determined to have the state embark on the life insurance business. In a message to the legislature he shows that the state could conduct such a business at a small cost. By operating through one of the state officers and selling "over the counter" insurance, which would naturally be attractive to the people on account of its reliability and economy, he believes a large amount of money could be kept in the state instead of going to swell the disturbing surplus in New York. One branch of the Florida legislature has endorsed the plan by the passage of an act creating the department. One of these days some state will embark in public insurance. When it comes it will be a state like Florida where home companies have not become firmly enough established to successfully oppose this "step into socialism."

The Latter Day Saints of Utah have taken a commendable action in passing resolutions disapproving of the promotion of mining enterprises by ministers of their church. It is an unpleasant fact that a large amount of doubtful mining stock has been "placed" in this country by ministers and by means of advertisements in religious newspapers. The condition of the mining industry is now such that no man with regard for his reputation will have anything to do with the sale of stock in enterprises that he does not know to be sound in every respect. And even then the business is not to be entered upon lightly on account of its uncertain character. The most promising mine will sometimes fail because the capital needed to develop it cannot be secured.

Fat people everywhere will be interested in the success of Secretary Taft in reducing his weight by 100 pounds in a year or so. The secretary accomplished this feat by following a simple diet prescribed by an English physician of note. The chief feature of this regimen is a gluten bread and the avoidance of sweets and malt liquors. The secretary exercises night and morning, sleeps not over eight hours and drinks sparingly of water. Beefsteak, the white meat of fowls and the bread which he calls "dog biscuits" make up a rather comforting dietary. The secretary will always be caricatured as the man who "gave up his seat to three ladies," when as a matter of fact he is now down to normal size and in splendid trim to run for the presidency.

Colorado has been greatly injured by mining sharks. The Denver News admits it. An honest promoter is so seldom seen as to be unrecognizable when located. The most of them are out after suckers and they gather them in as the farmer gathers his corn. The money invested in mines in that state, or in holes in the ground called mines for the mere convenience of it, is many times greater than the aggregate of wealth taken from them. All this has helped to build such cities as Denver, Pueblo and Colorado Springs, but it has also left the impression from one end of the land to the other that the state is infested with fakirs and confidence men. This with Denver's yellow journalism constitutes a burden which entitles our beautiful Centennial sister to sincere commiseration.

The national publicity law organization now in session in New York aims to secure the passage of acts requiring the publication of all contributions to national and congressional committees, together with the expenditures of these committees. The agitation will result in effective legislation sooner or later, because it is necessary to the continuation of our government

in pure republican form. The Roosevelt-Harriman controversy has had the effect of forestalling any debate that might have been possible on this question. When men become so much interested in the outcome of an election that five men are willing to contribute a quarter of a million dollars to that end, the public has a right to know that they are spending the money and why they are showing so keen a concern in politics.

When E. F. Stephens, the Crete nurseryman, rings the bell on any of the fruit buds the public will know that they are dead. In response to numerous questions as to present conditions in Nebraska he writes:

"Prior to Friday morning last, we regarded the outlook as very favorable indeed, especially for peaches, plums and all small fruits. The very severe freeze of last Friday morning, followed by other nights below freezing points, have seriously damaged the prospect of a fruit crop, especially peaches. Our people estimate the peach crop at about 20 per cent; cherry crop at 30 per cent; the vineyard at 85 per cent; all other small fruits as a fair crop. The apple orchards of the country overbore last year and could not have been expected to bear a full crop this season. We estimate our own apple crop at about 50 per cent of last season, which was a normal crop."

It is easy to find the worm in the heart of the happiness of the men entrusted with the operation of the railroads. The increase in the cost of operation is inevitable and impossible to prevent, and under ordinary circumstances would be taken philosophically as one of the fortunes of business. But men who have been paying up to 200 cents on the dollar for railroad stocks will be satisfied with no explanation to take the place of expected dividends. The men in charge of the roads must make them pay or give way to other men who can do it. It is the pressure of this call for big dividends that makes railroad managers relentless in paring down the pay of their men, and in cutting them off the payroll whenever they can be spared even for short periods. The great business blunder of the day is thus revealed to be the over-capitalization of the railroads and the over-booming of these water logged securities. While the public has cause for complaint, the first and keenest sufferers are the officers who are called upon to retrench and the men who feel the weight of the descending axe.

Thomas C. Patterson of the Denver News is a very wealthy man. If his entire estate were converted into cash a gunny sack wouldn't hold it. What to him is a fine of \$1,000 for contempt of court? It is nothing at all. The principle at stake is the only thing for which he thinks it worth while to contend. Freedom of speech and of the press shall not be abridged, says the constitution. Mr. Patterson's newspaper told the supreme court of Colorado what was what. It outlined for this high tribunal what its decision should be in a matter pending in said court of last appeal. The court construed these remarks as contempt and fined the presumptuous senator a thousand dollars. He appealed from this decision to the supreme court of the United States where the judgment of the lower court was confirmed. Mr. Patterson will pay the fine, because he must, but in discussing the matter in his valuable paper he reiterates the justice of his offensive remarks and rubs it in. He cites the constitutional guarantees and spits through his teeth. While he is suffered to draw the breath of life he proposes to stand for his rights. Reading between the lines one can see that the thing that hurts worst is that the decision of the highest of the highest tribunals gives the Evening Post license to use an extra dab of red ink in making it unpleasant for the owner of the News. To finally and effectually