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Some soaps contain such a large proportion of alkali that the cleaning process removes the natural oil that keeps the skin from being dry, chapped and rough.

Chapman's Violet Cream

puts back into the skin what soap takes out of it. It moistens and softens the skin and promptly removes chaps, roughness and irritation.
Though it doesn't cost much it could not be better at any price.
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CHAPMAN,
THE DRUGGIST,
VALENTINE, NEB.

Professional Cards

The Loup Valley Hereford Ranch.
Brownlee, Nebr.
Soldier Creek Colony 17th 1899
a son of Columbus 17th, a half brother of the \$10,000 Champion Dale, and Prince Royal of 131,000 at head of herd.
I will have no bulls for sale until 1908, having sold all of 1906 bull calves.
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Biége, Nebr.
Tubular wells and windmills.
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All work will be given prompt and careful attention.

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Trunks, valises and packages hauled to and from the depot and all parts of the City.
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General Blacksmithing and Wood Work.
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SHARPLESS CREAM SEPARATOR,
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Dentist
Office over the grocery department
Will visit on Wednesdays
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D. D. DEBOLD
Barber
First-class haircut, shave, and facial treatment.
The Fountain

Smoking Contests.
"Smoking contests are as old as the hills," said an antiquary. "Go to Brittany, take in a Breton 'pardon,' and you'll see a smoking contest sandwiched in between the dancing matches and the wrestling bouts."
The old man took out his notebook. "The first smoking contest of which we have any authentic record," he said, "came off at Oxford, the English seat of learning, in 1723. The conditions were that you should smoke three ounces of tobacco without drinking or leaving the stage, the person first finished to get a prize of 12 shillings."
"Hearne says—I copied it down here."
"Many tried, and 'twas thought that a journeyman taylor of St. Peter's-in-the-East would have been the victor, he smoking faster than and being many pipes before the rest, but at last he was so sick that 'twas thought he would have dyed, and an old man that had been a builder and smoked gently came off the conqueror, smoking the three ounces quite out, and he told me that after it he smoked four or five pipes the same evening!"

A German Duel.
A young officer quarreled with a friend who was a solicitor. Hot words were exchanged, and the officer struck his friend. Here the matter might have ended—there was something to forgive and regret on both sides. But the officer's regiment heard of the affair, and a court of honor decided that he must challenge the civilian. So a duel by command took place, and the young lawyer fell mortally wounded by his friend. When the officer returned home he was arrested on the information of the president of the court of honor which had forced him to fight. He was tried by an ordinary tribunal and sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The president of the court of honor knew he was urging the officer to an illegal deed when he insisted on the duel, but honor, as he understood it, must be satisfied at all cost.—Berlin Letter.

The Cigar Mouthpiece.
A rich Russian banker had been discovered murdered in his house in St. Petersburg, says a writer in the Green Bag. There was no clew, but in the room there was found a cigar mouthpiece containing part of a cigar of such an expensive kind that it was supposed the banker himself had been smoking it just before the crime had been committed. On close examination the mouthpiece was found to be worn away by the teeth of its owner, but the dead man's teeth did not fit the indentation. The servants were one by one examined, and it was then found that the hollows of the mouthpiece compared exactly to the formation of the front teeth of the cook, to whom no suspicion had been attached. He afterward confessed to the murder.

England's "Fiery Dragons."
In the year 1532 various parts of Great Britain were visited by a remarkable meteorological phenomenon, which the old authors refer to as "the visitation of the fire drakes or dragons." The author of "Contemplation of Mysteries" says: "In ye letter part of ye yearre (1532) ye fieri dragons appeared flying by flocks or companies in ye ayre, having swines' snoutes, and sometimes were they seene foure hundred flying together." In speaking of the fire dragons in another portion of his work he says, "Common people thinke fire drakes to be spirits which watch over hidden treasure, but the philosophers affirm them to be ye result of poisonous vapors which are spontaneously lighted in ye ayre."

Ireland's Coast Cliffs.
The finest cliff scenery in the United Kingdom is on the coast of the county of Donegal, at the northwest of Ireland, facing the Atlantic, where the variety and grandeur of the cliffs are most thrilling and impressive. Slieve League, south of Glen Columbkille, is a superb introduction to Donegal's coast splendors. In less than half a mile from the sea the mountain rears its height of nearly 2,000 feet. In the island of Achill, off the west coast of Ireland, the cliffs of Croghan, at Achill Head, rise sheer from the water's edge to the dizzy height of 3,000 feet.—London Standard.

Smoked Glass.
Murphy—Well, this bates the mischief. Dooley told me that if I smoked a piece of glass I'd be able to see the spots on the sun. Sure, ain't I fairly kilt wid trying to make me pipe draw? 'Tis the way I'm thinking, that either I haven't the right kind of glass or else Dooley's been fooling me.—London Tit-Bits.

Took Wind Out of Their Sails.
Addressing one of his southern audiences, Sam Jones once requested all the husbands present who had not spoken a harsh word to their wives for a month to stand up. He shook hands with those who arose and then introduced them to the rest of the audience as the "twenty-seven biggest liars in Tennessee."

Honesty and Ability.
Uncle—You see honesty is absolutely necessary, but ability is equally indispensable. Nephew—That may be, but what end does honesty serve? Uncle—To maintain your obligations. Nephew—And ability? Uncle—To avoid breaking them.—H Mondo Umerico.

Snake Tempted.
The snake tempted the man who tempted the snake. Yes, I suppose he was tempted to do something easy.—New York Herald.

PROSPERITY OF TRUSTS

Vast Sum Appropriated by the Corporations.

G. O. P. SYSTEM OF PROTECTION.

While Prices Have Advanced 50 Per Cent, Wages Have Increased but 20 Per Cent—Should We Stand Pat or Revise the Tariff—A Proposition For Voters to Consider.

We are all impressed with the prosperity that the great business interests of the country are enjoying, but somehow many of us feel that we are not getting our share. There is no disputing the prosperity of the few, but there is still stronger evidence that many farmers and wage earners are not getting just what should be coming to them. The price of farm products, with the exception of wheat, has increased, wages of workmen have advanced, and yet the greatest economy is not able to equalize the greatly increased outgo. The "figures" of Dun & Bradstreet's mercantile agencies show that the price of all commodities has risen on an average over 50 per cent since 1896, but the statistics of the average wages paid indicate an increase of only about 20 per cent during the same period.

The census figures show there are about 30,000,000 people in this country working for wages, receiving an average of about \$600 each per year, so the total wages paid amount to \$18,000,000,000. Deducting 20 per cent would give in 1896 for the same number of wage earners \$15,000,000,000. But as the cost of living is now 50 per cent more than in 1896, and it cost all the wage earners earned in 1896 to live, it must now cost them \$22,500,000,000, or \$900 each per year to buy the same amount of goods and pay the increased rent and other expenses of living that it did in 1896. Yet the evidence shows that the wages paid are but 20 per cent higher, or \$720 per year, in all \$18,000,000,000, so the difference between what the wage earners of the country now receive and what they should receive if they fully participate in the prosperity is \$4,500,000,000. This amount approximately represents what the protected trusts, combines and corporations are receiving in profits over and above the average profits the producers and manufacturers were getting in 1896. Surely the trusts are prosperous, and their prosperity is indisputable, for \$4,500,000,000 is diverted by the Republican system of protection into the remorseless maws of the corporation managers. But how about the balance of us that are forced by these tariff fostered trust high prices to pay the extra \$4,500,000,000, or \$150 each for the 30,000,000 workers?

No wonder there is unrest and that all who earn salaries and wages are demanding more pay; but, as the cost of living is advancing at the rate of 5 per cent annually, it would seem that wages and salaries will never catch up with the cost of living.
As a political proposition the voters must remember that in 1896 and for three years previous the Democratic tariff rates were quite high, averaging 38.68 per cent ad valorem, whereas under the present law the rates exceed 50 per cent, or over 20 per cent higher. That enormous increase fostered the formation of trusts and combines which very naturally, finding they had a monopoly, have increased prices until they now exceed 50 per cent of what they were in 1896 under the low or tariff rates. As every one is compelled to pay these increased prices, is it not the reasonable and only way to reduce prices to so revise the tariff that at least these high prices may not become higher, which are now increasing at the rate of 5 per cent every year?

The Republicans say, "No; we will stand pat and allow the present trust prosperity to continue and hope that wages will advance to a par with prices," which under the present system experience shows they will not do. The Democrats declare for tariff revision, so that there will be competition with the trusts and force them to reduce the price of their products to a reasonable extent. The voters when they elect the next president and congress must decide between these two propositions.

The War Expenditures.
Senator Hale calls attention of the people to the fact that "two-thirds of all the revenues of the government are devoted to the payment of the burdens of past wars, like pensions and expenditures in view of future wars." And the army and navy are both calling for still greater expenditures, and the president recommends they be made. This enormous burden on the people provides no return in any way and must be constantly repeated to keep up the present military establishments. Every warship we now have will be worthless or obsolete in ten years, every gun will be worn out in practice firing in less time. The large army is useless except as a preparation for war, which can only come when we are unwilling to keep the peace. Half the number of warships and half the present army are ample for our requirements.

Proposed Taxation.
Republican Plan a Poor Substitute For That of the Democracy.
The inheritance tax discussion has commenced in congress, although there is no possibility of the bill introduced by Mr. Perkins of New York being considered at this session. This Republican plan of confiscating one-half or less of a man's property after his demise is a poor substitute for the much desired legislation to prevent the accumulation of vast fortunes by abolishing the special privileges that have led to their amassing.
Most of the states already have an inheritance tax and will be loath to divest themselves of this form of taxation. The income tax would seem to offer a more equitable and effective method of raising revenue. The Republican decision upon an income tax was in-

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1907		
January	February	March
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I. M. RICE,
Editor and Proprietor of
The Valentine Democrat
Published Thursdays. \$1.00 a Year in Advance.

CORRUPT PRACTICES.
Cost of Elections in England and the United States.

The cost of elections in England at the last election, both personal and governmental, was an average of \$1.06 per vote polled. The official returns state all the items of expenditure and include the expenses of the successful and defeated candidates. The corrupt practices act of 1883 has virtually abolished the purchase and sale of votes and limits the expenditures of candidates according to the size and population of the district. The effective provision of the corrupt practices act is that if corruption or evasion of the law can be shown against the successful candidate he is unseated and the next highest candidate is declared elected unless his election is also declared tainted with corruption. This provision of the law not only prevents the expenditure of money unlawfully by the candidate and his friends, but also limits the activity in that direction of the party organizations, for the risk of discovery is too great to pay to take chances.

The attempts to limit corrupt practices in the United States by insufficient statute could well be re-enforced by limiting expenditures and unseating candidates elected whose elections have been shown to be tainted. Such provisions would cause each candidate, his friends and the party organizations to act as detectives on each other and naturally tend to discourage evasion of the law.

Legislators who are really intent on enacting a law to prevent political corruption should investigate the English corrupt practices act and adapt its stringent provisions to apply to conditions here. But such can never be accomplished until the voters first vote to turn the rascals out by electing honest representatives. The leaders of the Republican party are evidently loath to enact laws that will really prevent corruption, for it is a fact that the amount spent in close and doubtful elections is the chief cause of Republican success. It is certainly with in the truth to say that for every dollar expended by the Democrats there is \$10 and even more spent by the Republicans. In 1896 the Democrats had less than \$1,000,000 in their campaign fund, while \$16,000,000 were supplied by the banks, railroads and special interests that were assessed for the Republican campaign.

PROPOSED TAXATION.
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Most of the states already have an inheritance tax and will be loath to divest themselves of this form of taxation. The income tax would seem to offer a more equitable and effective method of raising revenue. The Republican decision upon an income tax was in-

cluded in the tariff bill of 1894. But what is the good of talking about inheritance or income tax that would raise hundreds of millions of dollars unless the tariff stand patters are dislodged from their control of congress? When the tariff tax is reduced will be time enough to talk about other forms of taxation.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.
Republicans of New York Would Stifle Free Speech.

New York Republicans are preparing a bill for the present legislature to compel editors "to print daily, in a conspicuous place, the name of the responsible owner and also the name of the editor responsible for utterances in the editorial and news columns." If the corrupt Republican ringsters think they can stop honest newspapers from denouncing and exposing their corrupt political doings by that kind of a bluff they are certainly mistaken.
Honest politicians are but rarely attacked in the newspapers, and if they are unjustly they always find defenders, even from editors who are political opponents. It is the galled jades that wince, and the editors and publishers of newspapers would be delinquent in their duty if they did not tell the truth about them.

This back fire against the newspapers may be aimed at the great dailies of the country press, but the latter very generally give the names of both publishers and editors, and in any event it is common knowledge in the community who is the owner, publisher and editor. This Republican effort to try to restrict the activity of the press has always failed and will fail again, for the right of free speech, which includes freedom of the press, is one of our cherished liberties.

Waking Up.
Senator Hansbrough, a stand patter representing the tariff reform state of North Dakota, is waking up to the fact that the protected harvester trust is an octopus and wants it investigated.

A Dangerous Combine.
The rivalry in New York between the Republican factions is so mixed up with railroad and trust domination of the G. O. P. that it becomes of national interest. The frenzied financiers and the politicians have joined hands to control the political destinies of the nation, but there is a contest between the two centralized groups of Wall street for supremacy. On one hand are the Rockefeller-Harriman group, with Odell as the political leader, and these hope to see Fairbanks nominated for president. Opposed to them are the Morgan-Vanderbilt group, with Root and his friends expecting to dictate a successor to Platt for United States senator and the control of the delegation to the next national convention. No wonder the voters of New York repudiated both factions at the last election and are looking to the Democracy to preserve them from the corruption and grafting that naturally follow the association of corporations and political leaders.

Shaw Protests in Vain.
All the protestations of Secretary Shaw that he was trying to aid legitimate business by doing what Wall street asked with the deposit of public money seems to have gone for naught, for the stock gamblers are the only ones who are interested. The re-

We Sell Lumber

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Weather Data.
The following data, covering a period of 17 years, have been compiled from the Weather Bureau records at Valentine, Nebr. They are issued to show the conditions that have prevailed, during the month in question, for the above period of years, but must not be construed as a forecast of the weather conditions for the coming month.

January.
TEMPERATURE.
Mean or normal 17°
The warmest month was that of 1900 with an average of 31°
The coldest month was that of 1890 with an average of 11°
The highest was 68° on 30, 1892
The lowest was -38° on 24, 1894

PRECIPITATION.
Average for month .60 inches.
Average number of days with .01 of an inch or more 6.
The greatest monthly precipitation was 1.27 inches in 1889.
The least monthly precipitation was 0.04 inches in 1900-01.
The greatest amount of precipitation recorded in any 24 consecutive hours was 0.37 inches on 31, 1894.
The greatest amount of snowfall recorded in any 24 consecutive hours (record extending to winter of 1884-85 only) was 4.4 inches on 25, 1902

CLOUDS AND WEATHER.
Average number of clear days, 15
Average number of rainy days, 8
Average number of foggy days, 1
Average number of stormy days, 1
Average number of days with hail, 0
Average number of days with snow, 0