GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

HIS SECOND ADDRESS

Approves of Revenue Law Passed by the Last Legislature

SAFEGUARD TO PROGRESS

Urges Members to be Cautious—Opportunity to Make Good Record in Their Hands.

To the Members of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Legislature of Nebraska:

Gentlemen—It is a constitutional requirement that at the beginning of your deliberations the chief executive shall convey to you "information by message of the condition of the state and shall recommend such measures as he shall deem expedient."

I have but few recommendations to make. In general, I may say that the state was never more prosperous than it is today, the several executive departments were never in better working condition and the institutions are at the zenith of careful and economical management. Owing to the chance of politics, your membership is chosen almost entirely from one great party. With this unprecedented majority comes a corresponding responsibility. The dominant party cannot escape the burden thus laid upon it and it should be solved by the thought. It is a time for earnest, zealous work. It is a time when state patriotism should rise superior to personal prejudice and petty whims. It is a time when the privileges of the few should not be allowed to take precedence over the welfare of the many. It is a time for laying broader and making more secure the equitable foundations upon which the state shall continue to rise toward a condition of future greatness which we now but faintly appreciate. If you would merit the highest encomium of praise let your deliberations be distinguished by honesty of purpose, careful research and strict economy. Thus will you protect the public treasury and guard against hasty and improper enactments. Your motto should be not how much legislation but how good.

THE REVENUE LAW.

The revenue law passed by the preceding legislature has met the expectations of its friends and has been received with popular favor. The information is fully warranting by the results of the recent campaign. The law is an innovation in some of its features and having a direct bearing on the interests of every citizen was naturally brought under the searlight of public opinion and was made the target of extreme criticism. The application was helped in that it gave to people generally a better understanding of revenue problems than they had previously enjoyed and enabled a more intelligent vote upon the issues involved. The result was such an endorsement of the work of the legislature which framed and passed the bill as has seldom been recorded in the history of Nebraska. Not a single member who voted for the bill and who stood for reelection this year was defeated. The conclusion is that the time was ripe for revenue revision. The people understood the inequitable provisions of the old system, under which the growing state could not adapt its revenues to its increasing obligations; they appreciated the logic employed by former executive officers in challenging public attention in message and biennial report, to the urgent need of revision; they witnessed the non-partisan spirit which entered into the framing of the new law and realized that the measure represented the best thought, regardless of party, which the legislature could command, supplemented by the valuable experience of older states where similar laws. They knew, too, that the two foundation principles were the essence of justice namely, the listing of all property for assessment purposes at its fair cash value and the levying of an equitable and uniform tax upon all property as listed, without bias or favor.

One assessment and one set of levies have been made under the new law and we are now in a position to judge of results. It is apparent that a large amount of property which hitherto has been covered and has escaped taxation entirely has been placed upon the assessment rolls and is made to stand its just share of the expense of government. Other property which in the past has been valued at ridiculously low figures has been listed at approximately its true worth. Tax sharkers have been brought to time, both private and corporation property have received their just deserts, the grand assessment roll has been increased to a reasonable sum, the state has been enabled to raise sufficient revenue to meet the expenses of government economically administered, and in the transition from the old to the new no interest has been injured beyond the few isolated cases which have been the victims of mistakes, or concerning which the judgment of the assessor or of the levying body may have been faulty.

In some communities the taxes for this year are considerably increased over the taxes of last year, but an investigation of the facts discloses that the fault is not with the law, but rather with the local levying bodies which, in making their levies, did not take into proper consideration the increased valuation upon which they were acting.

While the essential principles of the law are, in my judgment, eminently just and correct, there are some matters of detail which might be improved and to these I invite your attention.

Under the interpretation placed upon the law by the state board of equalization and assessment it has no power to differentiate between classes of property in equalizing county assessments. It can raise or lower the entire assessment roll of the county, but cannot raise or lower one class of property without reference to the other classes. For this reason it is impossible to secure a just equalization, for in raising or lowering one deficient class to the proper standard other classes with which there is no fault are by the unit system raised or lowered in unison and hence, while justice may be secured in the one instance it is violated in the other. I therefore recommend that section 130, Article 1, Chapter 77 of the Compiled Statutes of 1903 be amended so as to permit the state board of equalization to differentiate between classes of property in equalizing county assessments.

Another inherent weakness in the present law is the fact that county boards of equalization are compelled to make their levies in advance of the equalization of the county assessments by the state board. I recommend that section 139, Article, Chapter 77, Compiled Statutes of 1903 be amended so that county boards shall make their levies after the certificate of county equalization shall have been received from the state board. Also, that section 138 of the same article and chapter be amended so as to provide for the transmission by the state board of the certificate of county equalization to the county clerk at the earliest date consistent with the general tenor of the section, and that the said county clerk be instructed to call the county board together within seven days after the receipt of said certificate for the purpose of making the necessary levies for the ensuing year. For the same reasons the law fixing the time for making school, district and municipal levies should be amended in harmony with the above suggestion.

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

By act of the last legislature, the chief executive of this state was authorized to appoint a commission of three members to act with a like commission from the state of South Dakota in the matter of arresting upon a boundary line between the two states. This commission met with the representatives of South Dakota at the time and after repeated conferences and personal inspection, an agreement of the joint commission was filed with me, March 4, 1904, which I now transmit to you for approval or rejection.

The preceding legislature also made provision for a similar commission to act in conjunction with a commission representing the state of Iowa. However, as our enactment was contingent upon the action of the Iowa legislature in providing for a boundary commission, and as the Iowa legislature neglected to take such action, nothing has been done. Owing to the complexities involved, lawlessness and crime have been fostered in the disputed territory and the rights of property owners have been subject to annoyance. This state of affairs will continue until relief has been afforded by the settlement of the boundary dispute. I recommend, therefore, that your honorable body make provision for another boundary commission, the statute of limitation having run against the old act, to co-operate with a like commission from the state of Iowa in arresting upon a boundary line.

The litigation regarding the boundary line between Nebraska and Missouri, which had been pending in the supreme court of the United States for some time, was permanently settled recently by a decision of the court fully sustaining the contention of Nebraska. The court fixes the boundary line in the center of the old channel of the Missouri river, confirming to Nebraska what is known as "Island Precinct," Nemaha county. I recommend that an appropriation of $1,000, or as much thereof as may be needed, be made for the surveying of the line and the erection of permanent monuments, the state of Missouri to meet its equal share of said expense.

THE BATTLESHIP "NEBRASKA."

On October 7, 1904, the battleship "Nebraska" was successfully launched at the yards of the builders in Seattle, Washington. The impressive ceremonial was participated in by a number of the executive officers of this state. The "Nebraska" is one of the latest and most efficient types of battleships and our state is highly honored by the national government in being permitted to stand sponsor for her. The remaining work of construction and equipment will occupy about one year and she will then be ready for commission. At that time it will be highly proper for our state, through its legislature or unofficially through its citizens, to present to the officers of the "Nebraska," for the use of the ship, some practical gift as a token of our interest in the fighting craft which bears our state name and as a further indication that we are not insensible to the distinction which has been conferred upon us by the general government.

SUPREME COURT COMMISSION.

The legislature of 1903 made provision for the temporary continuance of the supreme court commission, six commissioners to be appointed for the period of one year and three commissioners to be appointed for the period of two years from April 10, 1903. The court is unable to keep up with the work which comes before it, the number of cases filed each month being in excess of the number disposed of. It seems imperative that a commission of at least three members should be provided for the coming biennium, to the end that the rights of litigants who are seeking relief may be conserved without unreasonable delay.

THE STATE'S FINANCES.

On November 30, 1904, the floating interest bearing indebtedness of the state, as represented by outstanding general fund warrants, amounted to $2,053,386.40, an increase during the biennium of $264,057.77. This condition was made possible and practically unavoidable by the operation of the old revenue law.

While the new law was passed in 1903, it did not become operative until 1904 and it has had no appreciable effect upon the state's financial condition. With reference to the sufficiency of the state's income during the coming biennium, I quote from the current biennial report of State Auditor Weston:

"To the estimated income from the levies of 1903-4 have been added a conservative estimate of income from back taxes and a very considerable amount derived from miscellaneous sources, making the total estimate of income for the general fund $2,819,244.71. As against this estimated general fund income, the estimated requirements for the biennial period commencing April 1, 1905, and chargeable to the general fund, amount to $2,547,216."

From the above it is apparent that if the present legislature holds its appropriations within reasonable bounds the receipts of the coming biennium will exceed the expenditures by $278,928, a condition which has not existed in Nebraska for many years.

With such a state debt as now confronts us it requires no argument to make clear that the strictest economy consistent with the public weal should be exercised by all your relations with the public treasury. The opportunity is most auspicious. The state institutions were never in better condition. The two preceding legislatures made appropriations for permanent improvements amounting to a little more than $600,000. The result is that needed buildings and equipments have been generously provided and the present legislative body will be expected to do but little in the way of expenditures.

THE LOBBY.

The bane of every legislative body is the subsidized lobby. Vicious legislation is not the result of ignorance but is rather the result of prejudicial influences which ought not to exist and which certainly ought not to be tolerated within the halls, cloak rooms or offices of any deliberative body which has power over the destinies of a people. I recommend that such action be taken as will protect your membership from the onslaught of private and corporation lobbyists who seek to accomplish pernicious ends by the exercise of undue influence.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.

The legislature of two years ago appropriated $35,000 for a Nebraska exhibit at St. Louis and laid upon the chief executive the duty of appointing a non-partisan commission of three members upon which should devolve all responsibility pertaining thereto. I am informed that after paying all obligations, there will remain unexpended about $10,000 of the original appropriation. This is certainly a most gratifying condition, one which speaks eloquently of the wisdom and discretion which the commission exercised in the discharge of its duties.

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPOSITION.

The people of the Pacific coast in particular are now preparing for the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, an event which will commemorate the trials and triumphs of the exploring expedition sent out by President Jefferson during the year following the purchase of Louisiana and which succeeded in penetrating to the mouth of the Columbia river in 1805.

FOOD COMMISSION.

The work of the food commission is necessarily curtailed by reason of the fact that the law restricts inspection to dairy products, cider and vinegar. As a consequence the great mass of food products containing injurious adulterants escape the jurisdiction of the commission and are amenable only to the general statutes. The subject is an important one. It seems desirable that the present law be broadened in its scope and made to include all food products, and that provision be made for such additional assistance as the enlarged duties may make necessary.

OIL INSPECTION.

The preceding legislature raised the inflammability test of illuminating oils from 100 degrees to 110 degrees Fahrenheit, thus affording additional security to life and property. Since the law was made operative it has been rigidly enforced, not a single case having been reported where oil below the test has been placed on the market.

IRRIGATION.

The report of the secretary of the state board of irrigation shows that considerable progress has been made in irrigation matters during the last two years. While the number of new projects has not been great, much has been accomplished in the way of improvement of existing canals and additional area has been brought under cultivation. The United States reclamation service has undertaken a large project which has for its object the storage of all the flood waters of the North Platte river and the reclamation of thousands of acres of land in Nebraska and Wyoming. It is hoped this plan will work to a successful conclusion, thereby adding a large productive area to our domain.

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

The military department has assumed a position of much greater importance since the enactment of the present militia law by congress, approved January 21, 1903. The purpose of the law is to recognize and make effective the volunteer force organized under the title of the national guard as the reserve army of the nation.

In order that the state may receive its full quota of assistance and that its privileges under the federal law may materialize, a sufficient appropriation should be made to carry into effect the designs of the enactment, insure safety of public stores, provide suitable quarters for company organizations, and extend encouragement to the young men who voluntarily assume the duties of a soldier, duties that may at any time become arduous and dangerous in the enforcement of law and protection of life and property.

EDUCATION.

The state views with ever increasing pride the progress of its great educational centers, the university and the Peru normal, and is looking forward to the time when the Kearney normal will take its place with the other and will become an important factor in our public school system.

BARTLEY BOND CASE.

Your attention is called to the suit of the state against the bondsmen of former State Treasurer J. S. Bartley. After more than seven years of litigation the state is without any judgment against the bondsmen. I am informed that not a single bondsman has a dollar's worth of property in his own name out of which the state could enforce a collection of any part of the judgment should one ever be rendered. Some of them have already gone through the bankruptcy court since the suit was instituted. I get this information from the court records and from the last official report to me of Attorney General F. N. Prout, in which he recommends the dismissal of this case on the payment of the costs which have been made by the bondsmen, and on the best terms possible.

GUARANTY BONDS.

Under a recent decision of the supreme court it is held that the statute in invalid which authorizes the execution and approval of official bonds with guaranty companies as sureties. The defect is technical and can be remedied.

I recommend that at the earliest date consistent with the amount of work involved you pass a law which will legalize the execution and approval of either personal or guaranty bonds.

STATE ACCOUNTANT.

The experience gained in the past two years serves to confirm my judgment as expressed in my previous inaugural address, recommending the creation of the position of state accountant. It should be the duty of such officer to scrutinize and verify the accounts of the various state officers and state institutions. I believe that such an official would prove of great value to the state, and hence I repeat the recommendation.

PURCHASING OF SUPPLIES.

I recommend that the purchasing of all supplies for both the Institute for the Blind and the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb be placed in the hands of the board of purchase and supplies, this being the board which does the buying for all the other institutions.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

The Institute for the Feeble Minded is in a very crowded condition. About thirty applications are now on file from those seeking admission, and who are properly entitled to the care of the state, but who are denied entrance on account of the lack of room. I recommend an appropriation of $20,000 for the purpose of erecting a cottage for girls, as an adjunct of this institution.

The Norfolk asylum, for the rebuilding of which an appropriation was made by the last legislature, is nearing completion, but probably will not be ready for the reception of inmates until about the first of May. When the last legislature made provision for the rebuilding of the Norfolk asylum it was believed that the institution would be completed in at least ten months of the present biennium. Appropriations amounting to $54,850 were accordingly made for officers' salaries, employees' wages and general expense of maintenance. As the building has been delayed, no part of these appropriations has been used. I recommend that $18,000 of the maintenance fund appropriated for the Norfolk asylum be transferred to the account of the Nebraska Hospital for the Insane.

Permit me to express the hope that your duties will prove pleasant and that the result of your labor will promote the welfare of our beloved state.

[Signed] JOHN H. MICKEY.

The more flattery a man hands his wife the less pin money he will have to dig up.

Grease spots may be quickly refaith.

Wigg—"There are more ways than one of losing money." Wagg—"Yes; money can be lost in more ways than won."

In horse racing the chap who gets the worst of it is the bettor.

The suburban policeman is generally annexed to a country club.

A good woman is usually too good for any man—but fortunately she know it.

Smile and the world smiles with you—if you are willing to settle with the bartender.

When a fellow is half seas over any policeman who sees him may seize him.

I girl doesn't like romance even if she knows it isn't genuine.

The bee that gets the honey doesn't loaf around the hive.

Decided to Hold Their Money

The directors of the Wabash Railroad company at a meeting in New York decided not to make any distribution on the debenture "A" bonds. In June it was decided that the money which might be used to pay interest on the "A" bonds was needed for improvements to the property.

Nothing will please the small boy more than the privilege of assuming the role of father to the man occasionally.

It's a long love that has no cooling.

"If girls would eat more onions they would have fewer calls from physicians," says a scientist. Also from other young men.

A landlord says a month's rent in hand is better than a dozen promises to pay.

Anyway, Eve wasn't constantly nagging Adam about other women.

Openings sometimes come to men and oysters when least expected.

Money may be the root of all evil, but baseball produces the rooter.

California Tournament of Roses

Under the most auspicious weather conditions imaginable and in the presence of sixty thousand people, Pasadena, Cal., held her seventeenth annual new year's feast of flowers, the celebrated "tournament of roses."

Self-control is when you can play cards with women and make them think you are enjoying it.

The cleverest thing is for a girl to pretend she is afraid you will see her shoe tops when she isn't.

If a girl wants to be kissed a young man doesn't have to waste much time looking for an opportunity.

When a girl tels a young man that the best is none too good for her it is up to him to offer himself.

You can't always tel from the melancholy womans sighs how much she weighs.

The dressmaker allows many of her best ideas to go to waist.

It is impossible to cultivate some men without irrigation.

young man, beware of the girl who lets you do all the talking during the courtship; she's playing a waiting game.

moved from clothing with the aid of a small pair of scissors.

There are times when every man feels that he ought to be ashamed of himself, but he isn't.

No, Maude, dear; it is a mistake to suppose that bakers all sleep on flowery beds of ease.

The frallest woman can pull a train after her just as well as the biggest locomotive.

It is easier to wins a girl's heart than it is to earn her hand.

A girl's watch is usually more ornamental than useful.

The Fall of a Cotton Mill

Application for a receiver of the Devis cotton mills of Fall River was made. The Industrial Trust company of Providence holds a mortgage for $500,000 on the plant to secure an issue of bonds payable in twenty years.

Japan Wants a New Treaty.

TOKIO—The Japanese government has agreed to negotiate an arbitration treaty with the United States. This is the result of American Minister Griscom's representations to Baron Komura, minister of foreign affairs, who has notified him that his government is pleased to accept America's invitation. Baron Komura further states that Japanese Minister Takahira is fully empowered to act with Secretary of State Hay to frame and sign a treaty of the kind at Washington.

Distribution of Seeds.

WASHINGTON.—The private secretaries of members of the Nebraska delegation in congress are now preparing lists for the congressional distribution in the state, which will take place within the coming two or three months. Each senator and representative will have 14,500 packages of garden, flower and field seed to hand out to their constituents. The total distribution to Nebraska will amount to 110,000 packages. Those desiring to receive seed are requested to make application at once.

Decide Money Was Stolen.

SAN FRANCISCO—The detectives of Wells, Fargo & Co., are in search of the man or men guilty of stealing the $15,000 which mysteriously disappeared a week ago from the forwarding department of the express company. All hope that the missing money eventually might be found in one of the eastbound coin safes, where it was thought it might have been placed by mistake, has been abandoned. Reports have been received from all points to which coin saves were shipped the day of the disappearance.

Norway Wants $10,000,000.

CHRISTIANIA, Norway—During the discussion in the storthing of the bill to raise a loan of $7,500,000, the finance minister unexpectedly announced that the loan would be increased to $10,000,000, of which the additional $2,500,000 would be set aside as a special reserve for use "when the country is in distress." This announcement of what may be regarded as a war fund created some astonishment. Some members asked an explanation of what had happened, but the minister refused to be drawn out.

He Understood Mules

On a street corner in the northwestern section of the city last Saturday forenoon quite a large crowd had collected. It had formed a ring, or, rather, a square, about some object in the center, two sides having congregated on each side of the curb, while the others made a rather thin line on the other side of the square. The on-lookers to whatever was going on did not seem in the least excited, but there was every indication of much interest in the situation.

"Drunken women fighting," said one of two young women who were passing near by. "It's most disgraceful, and those people placidly looking on. If they were men they'd stop it," she said to her companion. "It's degrading."

An old gentleman in the same locality was explaining to another one that a man had been stricken with an epileptic fit. "Poor fellow," he said; "and no one knows what to do for him."

It was evident that the gathering was an inactive one, and the reporter whose duty it is to investigate everything hastened to the scene and found out that a stout, well-proportioned mule had slipped on the pavement and was apparently well satisfied with his recumbent situation. The fact was that he resented every well-meant attempt to hoist him from his contact with mother earth, while his disgusted driver, a colored boy about 20 years old, was actually sobbing with anger and vexation of spirit. All sorts of suggestions were hurled at him, but nobody seemed to want to help him in his distress. There was danger in it. The mule was wild-eyed and vicious, and used both forelegs as a battery to keep folks away from him, until at last the driver sat down on the shafts of the cart, which had been drawn away from the animal, and indulged in long, bitter thought.

Just then an old colored man, wearing an old-fashioned blue army overcoat and a red worsted comforter about his neck, stepped into the open space, walked bravely up to the now quiet quadruped and took hold of both of his ears. He seemed to whisper to the beast, but whatever he did acted like magic. The mule got upon his feet, permitted himself to be hitched again to his cart, and the crowd went away.

"You seem to know how to deal with mules," said the reporter to the old fellow. "'Deed I does, suh," was the reply. "I knows all about mules and they does me. 'Fore Gawd, boss, I wasn't brought up in old Missouri for nothing. Yass'r, muels and me is kinfolks, sho's you bo'n. En I think dat job's wuff ten cents. Don't you, boss?"

The crowd had melted away, and as there was no one else by to respond to this palpable hint the reporter did so. And thus the chapter ended.—Washington Star.

Loss in World's Sheep

Australia is the foremost pastoral country in the world. In normal seasons it grows one-third as much wool as all the rest of the world taken together; and it is practically the sole producer of the fine merino quality. And now that the long drought has reduced by half the flocks of ten or twelve years ago, Australians are about to experiment with cotton growing, so that they may clothe southern China to-morrow as to-day they clothe northern Europe and America.

During the seven years drought which broke up last year the sheep died by millions for the want of food and water—yet the pastoralists hesitate about building irrigation works until they try first to make the government build them instead. And this is trifling with the greatest national industry. Of the grand total of not less than 500,000,000 sheep in the world, Australasia owned ten years ago practically 125,000,000. As these were nearly all merinos this country has a practical monopoly in the production of the finer qualities of wool. For two or three years past you have been wearing the fashionable coarse weaves of suitings and dress fabrics; but perhaps you have not asked yourselves why they were fashionable. The explanation is found, not in the fickle fancy of Parisian dandies and dressmakers, but in the terrible reality of the great Australian drought. That drought, by lessening the supply of merino wool, would have multiplied the price of all fine fabrics had the "fashion" remained steadfast. But in self-protection the woollen mills promptly switched the fashion to rougner cloths. It will be some years yet before the sheep stations here are fully restocked and the supply of merino wools restored. At present there are in Australia proper only a little over 50,000,000 sheep, in comparison with over 100,000,000 a decade ago.—Booklovers' Magazine.

When the Worm Turned

Hers was the modern mania for "beautifying things;
She went in strong
For the Chinese gong
And statues without wings;
Her walls were hung with draperies of curious design,
And her partlers rare,
Arranged with care,
On no particular line;
And all her friends who saw the place,
Declared that it was "Fine"

Her husband was a business man, on "just plain comfort" bent,
He furnished the "mun,
And he put "run
The place without dissent;
Great stacks of beaten brass" she bought, and stacks of scented pulm,
In his sketch 'ed
Earn crazed jew,
He classified as "Junk!"
Although he never said her so,
He didn't have the spunk

And then the "furnishing craze" possessed her for a while,
She mulled forms
That only made him smile;
She established "in" rooms, darn place
Everything "they" say are
Such rules observed

That steak was served
On an anti-microbe plate!
And still he never said a word,
But let her navigate.

She took down all the draperies and painted all the walls,
Until the rooms
Resembled tombs
And whitewashed stable stalls;
Then she declared that hygiene prescribed the "proper"
She bought "twin" beds
And turned their heads
Exactly "nor-nor-west;"
And still her lord and master
Hadn't courage to protest.

But then at last she hit upon a bigger, brighter fad;
She was "date,
It "up-to-date"
The new idea she had.
She moved the beds out on the porch, "shed" when all,
The "shed" was cold—
"Was bitter cold—
She thought he would not care,
But "out" When he came home that night,
You should have heard him swear!

—Anna Marble.

Saw Bullets in Flight

"I can see those bullets fly as you shoot them," said H. J. Callahan to a group of riflemen during recent target practice at Minerva, in this county, says the Elizabeth, N. Y., correspondent of the Sun.

Several of the gunners laughed at him, but he induced them finally to come to his side at a point about 150 yards from the target.

It was nearly 4 p. m. and the sun was shining at a favorable angle. Callahan was able to point out to his friends silver streaks which traveled from the gun to the target at each shot. The bullets appeared like glimpses of telephone wire glistening in the sunlight, the metal reflecting the rays of the sun.

The sportsmen were able to study the bullets' flight until the light changed.

The rifles used were a .30 Winchester, a .30 Marlin, a .45-90 Winchester and a .38-55 Winchester, and the bullets from them were observed without the aid of field glasses.

Some sportsmen who were not present on the afternoon of the target practice mentioned were not inclined to accept the story, and it was for their observation and benefit that a second series of experiments was held. The guns used on this occasion were a .38-55 and a .38-40 of Winchester patterns, each firing factory ammunition.

It was observed that some of the bullets traveled with greater speed than others, owing to a slight variation in the loading machines at the cartridge factory. The speedy bullets appeared with a thinner line of light than the slow ones.

It was also found that the vision was quicker than the rifle ball, for the eye could anticipate the arrival of the bullet at the target, see the bullet and watch the target for it to strike.

The Weed That Soothes

In Mexico a boy would as soon think of putting his head in the fire as smoking before his parents. Even a full-grown man, with children of his own, will burn his fingers in hastily pinching out his cigarette at the unexpected approach of his aged mother or father. Here any boy is a coward who will do anything behind his parents' back that he is ashamed to do before their faces.

Among Indians it is regarded as the greatest crime for a girl to smoke. A story is told of some daring girls who defied the custom and were caught smoking. Their tongues were slit at the tips as a warning against such an unladylike habit.

The Pueblo lad dare not smoke by himself before he is 25 unless he has established his warlike prowess by taking a scalp. Even then he must not smoke in the presence of his parents or anyone who is superior without their direct consent, which is rarely given. By the way, the Indians never speak of scalps or scalping. Among some tribes this ghastly trophy is spoken of as "the sacred hair," or the "oak bark." A folk story relates how two Indian boys who smoked before they had proven themselves men were reproved by their grandfather, a wise old medicine man. He told them they must go to the Eagle Feather Mountains (Manzano range) and bring him some "bark of oak." Until they returned with this they were forbidden, under severe penalty, to smoke. The youths went out in all innocence, peeled the bark from several trees, and were greatly chagrined when their grandfather told them to try again.

At last a wise friend solved the riddle for them, and directed them against a band of marauding Navajoes, from whose heads the boys got the "bark" which entitled them thereafter to the privilege of smoking.

Much Timber Yet Uncut

Across the great lakes in Canada there lies one of the world's largest reserves of timber. In spite of the tariff imposed much of this timber is today coming to the United States. The forests of the dominion are beginning to yield abundantly. More than 100,000,000 feet of pine sawlogs and square timber, during a recent season, were cut upon territory held under timber license from the crown.

Much of Canada's timber land has not yet ever been explored. In the newly developed district of Algoma, which are close to the great lakes, it is estimated that there are more than 100,000,000 cords of spruce and pulp wood, while in the districts of Thunder Bay and Rainy river there are nearly 200,000,000 cords more. A belt at least 3,000 miles long is believed to exist in Canada between Alaska and the Atlantic.

It has been estimated that, at the present rate of cutting, the greatest timber resources of the United States—those of the Pacific coast—will be exhausted in less than half a century. The annual cut of shingles and lumber in these regions is 4,500,000,000 feet. The standing timber in Washington, Oregon and northern California at present is twice that of the original timber lands of the northern woods. Washington produces about as many feet of shingles and other lumber as Oregon and California together. This state is noted for its shingles, there being more than 1,000 shingle mills within its borders. At Tacoma are located the largest sawmills in the United States.

BURNED "WITCHES" AT STAKE.

Siberian Villagers Guilty of Unheard of Atrocity.

A horrible story comes from the village of Kasimirovka, Siberia. "In this village," runs the report, "for three years past all the cattle have died from the Siberian plague.

"A witch doctor announced that the village was cursed by the presence of a family of witches. He singled out a young girl named Soldatenko. The villagers seized her and her twin sister.

"The sisters were solemnly tried and condemned to be burned. They were bound to a rude wooden cross, round which was built a high pile of faggots and logs.

"Liefen (the witch doctor) declared that the most innocent child in the village must light the torture fire, and a little girl of three was given the torch and told to thrust it among the faggots.

The flames burst up. The wretched girls screamed frantically, but in vain, while their frenzied mother tried to rush into the fire and rescue them.

"The villagers, convinced that they were at a pious work, sang hymns and prayed.

"As the girls sank back in the flames their father, who had been absent from the village, returned. Hearing the news, he dashed among the crowd with a hatchet and clove the witch doctor's skull to the chin."

HEAD OF ORDER DISCHARGED.

Frank R. Cunningham Martyr to What He Considers Duty.

Frank R. Cunningham, president of the National Rural Letter Carriers' association, who recently was discharged for violation of an executive order prohibiting government employes from attempting to influence legislation, announces that he will maintain an office at South Omaha and do more or less traveling in the

Frank R. Cunningham.

interest of the association. Mr. Cunningham in age is in the early thirties. His attempt to secure the passage of bills in Congress to increase the pay of rural letter carriers, together with the charge of insubordination, resulted in his dismissal.

TOO POLITE TO INTERRUPT.

Mrs. La Follette Listened Calmly While Handsome Gown Was Ruined.

President Roosevelt has great admiration for Mrs. La Follette, wife of Wisconsin's governor. The beginning of this regard dates from an occasion when Mrs. La Follette and he were fellow guests at a reception some time ago. They were standing in one corner engaged in conversation and eating ice cream. He was doing the bulk of the talking and she was an attentive and unwavering listener. "Suddenly I discovered," says the president, "that for the last five minutes I had been pouring ice cream down the front of her handsome evening gown. She had known it all the time, but had not indicated it by even the quiver of an eyelash or by the slightest change in the smiling, interested expression upon her face; she had simply been too polite to interrupt me by word or look or move, no matter what happened to the gown."

Mexico and the United States.

Some striking evidences of the regard with which Mexico is held in the United States have been furnished this year. Mexico has just floated a loan for $40,000,000 in this country, which was the first ever negotiated by that country in which no security through a lien on the customs or otherwise was asked for. Mexico's credit is thus seen to be as high as that of any of the other great countries. Our trade with Mexico, both imports and exports, is steadily gaining. Most of Mexico's dealings with the outside world are with us. We have something like $500,000,000 invested in Mexico in one shape and another, and this sum is constantly on the increase. Gen. Diaz has especial reasons for being pleased with the relations existing between his country and its northern neighbor.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

True Esthetic Temperament.

Canon Liddon wrote this in his diary concerning an incident of a holiday tour he took with his friend, Charles L. Dodgson, better known as "Lewis Carroll": Dodgson was overcome by the beauty of Cologne cathedral. I found him leaning against the rails of the choir and sobbing like a child. When the verger came to show us over the chapels he got out of the way. He said that he could not bear the harsh voice of the man in the presence of so much beauty."

Origin of Common Phrase.

What is the derivation of the phrase "Mad as a hatter?" One explanation is that it was originally French, "As mad as an oyster" (huitre), that bivalve being supposed to be extremely unintellectual. Another theory is that the phrase had reference to Collins, the English poet, author of the "Ode to the Passions." He was a hatter at Chichester, and it has been said that the lunatics with whom he was confined called him "the hatter" and that the phrase originated thus.

Elongated Congressmen.

Dr. A. J. Barchfeld, congressman elect from the thirty-second Pennsylvania district, will seem the tallest man in the next house. He stands 6 feet 4 inches in his stockings, weighs 220 pounds and is as straight as an arrow. "Cy" Sulloway of New Hampshire is really taller, but does not look the part because of his stoop.

Prohibit Monocles.

Single eyeglasses are prohibited in the German army.

PLAYED JOKE ON HI[illegible]

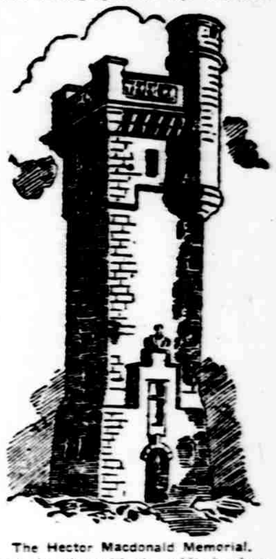
Fellow Statesmen Worrie[illegible] guished Iowa Congressman.

Half a dozen veteran congress[illegible] were telling stories in a committee room the other afternoon when one of the number recalled how "Dave" Henderson of Iowa escaped being fined $5,000 while the Mills tariff bill was under discussion. It had been difficult to maintain a quorum and the house directed the sergeant-at-arms to compel the presence of absent members. One by one they were brought in and on one pretext or another were allowed to go unpunished. At midnight Henderson was brought before the speaker. He declared he had no excuse to offer, whereupon another Iowa man moved that he be fined $5,000. Half a hundred seconds were immediately heard. Speaker Carlisle put the motion and about 200 voices yelled "aye." Then the speaker called for the noes, and Henderson in agonized tones alone responded. "The noes have it," gravely said the speaker, "and the gentleman is excused."

MEMORIAL TO SCOTCH HERO.

Imposing Tower to Mark Resting Place of Gen. Macdonald.

A large number of Scotch architects competed for the honor of planning a memorial to the hero of Omdurman, and the successful one was Mr. James S. Kay of Glasgow. He proposed a square tower in the Scotch baronial style, about 100 feet in height, surmounted by a turret at one corner, and a heavy balustrade round the rest of the top. Inside he will have four floors, with rooms which can be used as a museum, and a staircase leading up to the top. The idea



The Hector Macdonald Memorial.

is in keeping with the soldierly character of the man, and when it is carried out Dingwall will have a memorial worthy of its hero. It will cost $10,000.

MADE AND LOST FORTUNES.

Spectacular Career of Millionaire James R. Keene.

James R. Keene, who has come into some prominence in Lawson's diatribes regarding "frenzied finance," has had a career spectacular to the last degree. Born in London in 1838, emigrating to California in 1852, when the gold frenzy was still at its hight, he became in turn prospector, freighter, stock raiser, miller and editor, and unsuccessful at every turn. Then fortune changed and by 1879 he had made $125,000; then another change, and he was penniless. Beginning again, he made $6,000,000. He went to New York in 1877, where in two years he made $2,000,000 more. Then he cornered wheat, and when the wreck was cleared away in 1884 he had not a cent. Beginning once again, he made many millions, and since 1893 he has been one of the eminently respectable brokers on the New York Stock Exchange.

GIVES SECRET OF SUCCESS.

Assiduity and Concentration All, Says Lord Strathcona.

Lord Strathcona, lord high commissioner of Canada, recently completed his eightieth year. Except on set occasions he has eaten but two meals a day for sixty years—breakfast and dinner. His lordship is the largest landholder in the world, owning millions of acres in the Canadian northwest, besides a vast estate in Scotland, the place of his birth. He said recently: "I see no harm in smoking a little, and no harm in drinking a little, but I believe in temperance—yes, food, drink or tobacco. At the same time, in my opinion, there are none more intemperate than those who insist on total abstinence. I am not aware that I work harder than other men. I have congenial work, and I attend to every detail of my business. In assiduity and concentration lies the secret of success."

Wooden Heels for Shoes.

High heels for women's shoes are not made of leather, as might be supposed, but generally of maple wood of extra quality. The heel is molded on a machine, and after it is fully shaped it is covered with thin leather of the proper color. This is stretched and fastened on with rubber cement, and then iron, so that the finished heel looks as though made entirely of leather. Then the top lift, of a good quality of leather, is put on, and the heel is ready to be attached to the shoe.

The Beadle's Amendment.

At an auction sale in a Scottish village the auctioneer was trying to sell a number of domestic utensils, including a porridge pot. As usual, he was making a great fuss. Finishing, his keen eye caught a well-known worthy, the beadle, standing at the back of the crowd, and he shouted out: "Mister McTavish, make an offer for this pot! Why, it would make a splendid kirk bell!" "Aye," replied the beadle, "if your tongue was in it!"

Senator Hanna's Biography.

Elmer Dover, private secretary to the late Senator Marcus A. Hanna, is collecting data to be used in the official biography of the statesman. Mr. Dover has undertaken the work at the request of the Hanna family.

Plague Inoculation.

Out of 1,173 persons inoculated against the plague at Habli, India, only 2.1 per cent died, while of those who refused to be inoculated 26.6 per cent died.