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## PIONEERS AND WORK.

The pioneers of Nebraska began work when they started for the new territory, just opened up to settlement, in 1854. There were no railroads across Iowa and Missouri then. The trip from the Mississippi to the Missouri was made in wagons. The asperities of frontier life were not mitigated by Pullman sleepers nor assuaged by a dining-car service.

Work, effort, deprivation, self-denial were companions to every traveler seeking this unknown and untried domain in which to found and complete a new home. And when these treeless prairies had been reached, when the Missouri river had become our eastern boundary, work became master-director and tutelary genius of this picket guard of Americans. There was no loafing. There was no loafing place. Every man, woman and child worked because work was a condition precedent to the privilege of living and the necessary preface to any possible comfort. Every tissue, muscle and fiber was at full tension among those who came to remain and to establish homes of permanence and attractiveness. The fact that the term pioneer is derived from a French word signifying "a pickaxe" indicates its close relation to hard work. The pioneers of a new country are the sentient pickaxes of Almighty God. With them He delves into and opens up new and untested soils for tillage and occupation. The work of the ordinary pickaxe is to get into, dig out, and utilize that which is good and valuable. All the precious metals, and coal and iron

are unlocked and handed out to the commerce, manufacture and agriculture of the globe by the unhonored and unsung pickaxe.

And all the first fruits of the newly opened lands of frontiers are supplied to the world by those animated and sentient pickaxes of humanity—the pioneers—which the omnipotent arm of God swings into the wilderness. Those pickaxes with their work cleave out new kingdoms—new granaries, new markets, and new civilizations all the world over.

**"ENGLISH AS SHE IS WROTE."** Mr. Richard Harding Davis tells in the August Scribner what nice men the other war correspondents in Cuba are, and how much he admires them all. He gives a picture too of a group of them, including himself, which really leaves one no choice but to admire the entire party as fully as Mr. Davis does. But when he says that some of them have just been shooting rhinoceri in Africa, we are compelled to think that Mr. Davis' memories of his schooldays have played him false, and that he has confused the pachyderm in question with that other hard beast to spell, the hip-po-pot-a-mus. It used to be represented that the hippo had his toes in individual hoofs and his plural in mi, but that the rhino shared in neither of these advantages. It may be, however, that Mr. Davis has decided to abolish these troublesome distinctions.

**POPULISTIC THEORY.** A much beloved and fervidly advocated theory of populism is the government ownership of all the railroads. Another theory is the non-contracting of another dollar of interest-bearing indebtedness.

But how the populists propose to purchase the railroads for cash, or to purchase them subject to their more than eleven billions of dollars worth of interest-bearing liabilities, without borrowing any money, and without incurring any debt to bear interest, has never been explained.

Will some statesman who knows how to governmentally acquire and own and operate all the railroads in the United States, without expending any money or incurring any liability, kindly enlighten the property owners and taxpayers as to the methods by which they shall get so much of something for so little of nothing?

**GOLD SCARCITY.** In 1897 the world added two hundred and forty millions of dollars to its gold currency. The year 1898 will, unless all signs fail, increase the amount of gold coin two hundred and seventy-five millions of dollars. Since 1883 the production of gold and silver for each year has been:

Year.	Gold.	Silver.
1883	\$ 95,400,000	\$ 115,300,000
1886	106,000,000	120,600,000
1888	110,190,900	140,706,400
1890	118,848,700	163,032,000
1891	130,650,000	177,352,300
1892	146,651,500	198,014,400
1893	157,494,800	213,944,400
1894	181,175,600	212,829,600
1895	199,304,100	216,292,500
1896	202,956,000	213,463,700
1897	240,000,000	220,000,000
1898	275,000,000	220,000,000

Constantly growing is the world's annual output of gold. Why is it insufficient to furnish a steady standard of value? Africa and Australia, and Canada, and California, and Alaska, are throwing more and more gold into the channels of commerce every day. The refrigerated stomach of the Klondike and the torrid interior of Africa are heaving up gold. And California with Australia contributes constantly to the auriferous flood. Why is there not gold enough? Where is there not gold enough? Keep the above tabulated statement as to the annual production of gold and silver. It is true.

**THE INDIANS AT OMAHA.** The exhibit of the Indian congress at the Trans-Mississippi exposition is doubly interesting, in that on the one hand it is the first representative gathering ever attempted of our swiftly-passing forerunners in our continental arena, and on the other it is something genuine in a wilderness—a howling wilderness—of Midway fakes. There is howling within that fence, but it is the utterance of savage man forgetting himself; there are no doubt points not altogether true to the red man's home customs, but imposture and extortion have no place there.

The grounds are opened to the public at 8 o'clock in the morning. One who enters the Indian enclosure for the first time at that hour is likely to feel some bashfulness. He is alone with the savages and their white custodians. He sees tents, fires, family groups, domestic business going on; here are three young squaws sitting on the grass, combing their hair, which hangs in a mop, glossy-black, all around their heads; it is very thick and heavy, and must be ample protection from cold; each one holds her comb in a full grip, like a chopping-knife, and combs by main strength. The grass is wet with dew, and the day