

RAILROAD SECURITIES.

There seems to be no question about greater prosperity throughout the country now than at any time in the last seven years.

All indications point to enlarged business transactions and increased volume of trade.

The railroads are enjoying better times and the relations between them and the public are apparently much improved. The legislatures in many states have adjourned and few statutes unfair to railroads have been enacted into laws.

There seems to be quite a general disposition among railroad managements to keep out of politics and this of itself will go a long way in keeping legislatures out of the railroad business. The railroads of the country should be properly protected as well as regulated by state and national laws and the people of the country should feel as safe to buy railroad bonds as they are to invest in government bonds.

If the country continues to prosper and the people remain conservative there will be a great deal of investment and in the interest of the frugal, careful people of the country the railroad securities of the country should be protected against all kinds of vicious legislation.

GOOD GOVERNMENT.

Among the best types of American citizenship the faith that good government is good business is rapidly growing. The old notion that partyism alone determines the qualifications of a candidate for official position is being surely obliterated from every educated and thoughtful mind. Local governments have been rapidly and fearfully increased as to their cost during the last twenty-five years. There are many cities and counties in the United States today where local taxation makes a fixed charge for citizenship equal to all that an ordinary man can possibly save after paying expenses for himself and family. Municipal taxes must be reduced in every overburdened city, or such city will enter upon a commercial and financial decline. Men with money will get out of an over-taxed community when they can; and those who are out never will come in. Many good towns in Nebraska have taxes up to an unendurable percentage on personal and real values.

THE CONSERVATIVE advises the people of Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, Beatrice, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City and of all other commercial and manufacturing points in the state to take up the study of municipal government. Clubs ought to be formed for the discussion of the best methods of reducing taxes and also of enforcing their honest collection and disbursement. McMillan & Co., publishers in New York city, will soon issue an exceptionally valuable work of

500 octavo pages entitled "The Growth of Cities." Through the Reform Club, of 233 Fifth Avenue, New York, copies of this valuable work can be secured at \$1.50 each, by every member of that club in regular standing.

In this connection we submit a letter recently received from the Reform Club and ask that readers who desire to become members thereof send their names to the editor of THE CONSERVATIVE and he will make the application for them in due form.

Nothing could be of greater service to the cities and towns of Nebraska than to enter at once upon the work of putting their governments into the hands of business men for business government with a view of reducing the present taxation and preventing further increase of public indebtedness.

Dear Sir: In the eleven years since it was founded the Reform Club has demonstrated that good causes are good neighbors, and that its usefulness has been increased by combining in its membership those specially interested in more than one of the causes in which agree so large a proportion of thoughtful and patriotic citizens.

This club has stood for—

1. Tariff for revenue only; no taxation for private ends.
2. Sound money, including a safe and elastic banknote currency.
3. Business, as distinguished from partisan, administration of city affairs.
4. Electoral reform—toward equality, as between independent and party voters.
5. Local option as to subjects of taxation for local purposes—home rule in local affairs.
6. Civil service reform—public servants to be chosen and retained for fitness and efficiency.

During the current "off" year, in general politics, the committees appointed to promote 3, 4 and 5 of the aims above noted will be especially active and the co-operation of our non-resident members will be peculiarly needed and welcome. With the assembling of the Fifty-sixth congress the other committees will be called upon to add aggressive work to the large amount they are even now constantly doing.

It is not required that a candidate for membership sympathize equally with all the aims of the club; or even that he favor them all—provided he is in general accord with its purposes; and the fact that our club committees are each supported exclusively by the special contributions of those who wish to aid its work has been an important factor in the club's usefulness—one result being that each committee, when most active, has been largely aided by non-members of the club who appreciate the economy and loyalty with which aid

given it will be used in the special work for which it is contributed.

The standing of the club is assured as one of the more prominent and most frequented clubs in the city. As to the club accommodations furnished and rate of dues the enclosed will answer the inquiries most likely to be made. Extensive improvements are now being made, providing special restaurant facilities for ladies, and adding two-thirds to the accommodations for non-resident members.

We wish as large a membership as may be of those interested in freer commerce, sound money, businesslike city government, enlightened methods of taxation, the greatest facility possible for expression of popular will, and efficient public service.

Will you not use one or more of the within blanks for proposing such?

Sincerely,

WALLACE MACFARLANE,
President.

CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD,
Chairman committee on sound currency.

CALVIN TOMPKINS,
Chairman committee on tariff reform.

JOHN DE WITT WARNER,
Chairman committee on municipal administration.

SIMON STERNE,
Chairman committee on electoral reform.

JOHN G. AGAR,
Chairman committee on reform in local taxation.

SETH SPRAGUE TERRY,
Chairman committee on civil service reform.

In giving a list of queer towns in a recent issue of this paper, New York (N.Y.) was inadvertently omitted. New York (N. Y.) naturally comes at the head of any catalog of queer towns in this country. Kansas City is another queer town. There the women all take off their hats in the theaters, and the men uncover themselves in the public elevators when a woman enters. So long as they behave thus it is useless for them to expect people to stay away from their town.

In southern California where sunshine is the rule and storm the exception, where flowers bloom in every month of the year the people are obliged always to look into the almanac to ascertain whether it is Christmas or Fourth of July. Here in Nebraska we have no such obscurity brought about by winterlessness. Here snow and zero weather proclaim the need of overcoats and furnaces, stoves and grates.

With strict economy, the pope expects to get through this year on a million and a half of dollars.