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EXPLANATION DEMANDED.

In the Chicago Record of the 19th instant that generally truthful and accurate correspondent, W. E. Curtis, says:

"The rapid progress of legislation in the senate during the last few days has been due to the absence of Senator Pettigrew, who is ill, and Senator Allen, who is indulging in one of his periodical diversions."

Now, Nebraska indulges in no petty grewsomeness and is therefore not sensitive as to the fling about the statesman from Dakota. But when W. E. Curtis or any other critic, writes "and Senator Allen, who is indulging in one of his periodical diversions" an indignant and wrathful Commonwealth rises, in its composite might, and demands an explanation. The phrase "periodical diversions" is fraught with a diabolical possibility of misinterpretation. Does it mean long periods in a long speech? "Diversions" may mean much or little. They may be a pouring out of words or a pouring in of liquids by any great statesman.

COW VS. STEER.

The stockholders in the Buttermakers association of the United States were in session at Lincoln on February 20, 1900. They numbered three thousand and four hundred and their avowed purpose of enhancing the price of butter did not excite people any more than would a declaration to raise the price of fence-wire by the American Steel Co.

The buttermakers claim the sole right of purveying an oleaginous bread-spreader to the American people. They regard any invention to take the place

of butter as an evolution from the satanic mind and denounce all substitutes for cow-udder-originated butter as a menace to human liberty and the pocketbooks of buttermakers. They proclaim undying hostility to oleomargarine and denounce its manufacture as a wicked and malignant trust.

President Boardman, in addressing the buttermakers—who are not farmers—remarked with the impetuosity of a revolving "churn" and the elegance of a smoothly running "separator" that "the oleomargarine interest is a gigantic trust which threatens the existence of the dairy industry."

But the buttermakers are not farmers any more than are the oleomargarine manufacturers. The former buy cream of the farmers who milk cows and, in great butter plants, convert the raw product into a commodity called butter. In doing this some of the creameries grease their butter with neutral lard. THE CONSERVATIVE has known of large consignments of a splendidly pure article of lard from a packing house in Nebraska shipped to a creamery in Illinois. What did the buttermakers of Illinois want of four cars of neutral lard from Nebraska?

Are the buttermakers living in a glass house and slinging rocks at their competitors? Is there immunity decreed for those who enrich butter with lard and a penalty proposed for those who enrich lard with bovine oleo and sell it, under a truthful nomenclature, as a wholesome and cheap substitute for the product of the big butter plants?

President Boardman of the buttermakers trust which invokes congressional legislation to pull down the oleomargarine and build up the butter manufacturers, says oleo "threatens the destruction of butter." How?

Can an inferior and an unwholesome bread-greaser take the market unless there is a very degraded taste prevalent? Can a superior article be really threatened with destruction by an inferior in the markets of an intelligent people?

If oleomargarine is not good, is not wholesome and is not demanded it cannot be sold. If it is good and wholesome and cheaper than butter the demand for it will grow and consumers will have it in spite of miserable legislative restrictions, which, when analyzed, are merely laws antagonizing

the products of the leaf tallow of good fat steers against the products of the cream of the milk of well-bred and comely cows.

The buttermakers convention was in the interests of the manufacturers of butter. It did not directly represent the owners of cattle.

A convocation of all the packing-house magnates of the United States might call itself the

Pork Makers.

porkmakers association. It would be such in the same sense that the buttermakers at Lincoln were representative of farmers' dairies. The latter raised not a live cow now on earth and the porkmakers never owned and fattened a pig. The people wish a palatable and not deleterious substance with which to smear bread and other edibles. If oleomargarine suits them and it is cheaper and as good, in their judgment as butter, nobody but a knave or a fool will invoke legislation to prevent their getting it.

REJOICED.

"The plain people" will be rejoiced when they see that Senator Clark of Montana, under oath, declares that he expended only a trifle over one hundred thousand dollars in his campaign among the legislators of his state, for votes to make him a statesman.

This is the same disinterested patriot who "put up" a few hundred thousand to carry 16 to 1 in 1896 and who now advocates Bryanarchy and all that term implies. In the language of that unctuous politician, that political Chadband: "Oh, my friends, the people of this nation, sitting as a high court, must render judgment in the cause which greed is prosecuting against humanity."

Greed in abnormal potency, with a voracity that is insatiable, animates Mr. Clark to become a Bryanarchic 16 to 1 U. S. senator. And he only pays out between one hundred thousand and two hundred thousand dollars. Has Clark, as a representative of silver and 16 to 1, been correctly and populistically righteous in establishing the per capita circulation among Montana law-makers?

The two great political parties of the United States are now in a life and death struggle to see which shall nominate the weakest candidate for the presidency. The chances are in favor of the success of the republicans, but some democrats will bet against them.