

**BEEF vs
BUTTER.**

The Beatrice Express is worried about the butter makers being dethroned by oleomargarine makers, and editorially declares: "The creamery men deserve protection and should have popular support because they are doing a great deal for Nebraska by encouraging intelligent dairying. Whenever you find a dairying community you find a prosperous community. Nebraska has great possibilities in this line, and there is nothing that will more quickly redeem the waste places, lift the mortgages and make independent the farmers."

Are the creamery men "because they are doing a great deal for Nebraska by encouraging intelligent dairying," more entitled to popular support than the sugar men, the starch men and the mill men, who are encouraging intelligent manufacturing?

And what about the men who import and breed fine stock and produce besides milk, surplus beef and pork?

In 1899 the animals slaughtered and sold for slaughter in Kansas brought more than fifty millions of dollars. But all the wool and all the dairy and poultry products of that state the same year sold for less than eleven millions of dollars. And in Nebraska the relative cash values of the meat output and the dairy output are no doubt in about the same proportion.

The legislation in Nebraska against the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine drove out more capital and more labor than the dairy industry will bring in. It was short-sighted, unjust and inimical to the farmers of Nebraska whose hogs and cattle for lard, bacon, tallow and beef bring in four times as much cash every year as the creameries can bring in in two years. The domestication of tariff taxes—of protection, is not a good thing for Nebraska. The sooner law-makers learn that the power to tax was vested in governments for public purposes only the better for the commonwealth. The let alone policy is good enough. Wholesome oleomargarine is as good as wholesome butter. By existing law it is a penal offense to sell it under a false name. But bad butter may be sold and is sold as oleomargarine without penalty being incurred.

Why protect cow fat against steer fat? The latter brings into Nebraska dollars where the former brings dimes.

**THE GREAT
FIRST CAUSE.**

In contemplating the present attitude of America and England, I am reminded of a little incident in my foreign experience.

I was reading one day a book from a Munich circulating library concerning life in that interesting old town. The book was written by a young English girl, a daughter of William and Mary

Howitt, who was at the time a pupil of Kaulbach and disposed to see things from an artistic point of view. One day, when she was sitting alone in a retired spot in the park, she was surprised by the offer of a small bunch of wild flowers from a ragged boy who suddenly appeared upon the scene. She took the flowers with thanks, and soon he came back with another bunch, whereupon the English stranger was profoundly impressed by the love of the beautiful displayed by the German child, and, in her record of the incident, devoted many eloquent sentences to the beneficent influences of an early familiarity with natural scenery and objects of art upon the infant mind. But some irreverent reader of this outburst had written upon the margin of the page: "He Wanted Kreuzers!" and doubtless a desire for remuneration in the small coin of the realm was the secret of the boy's gallantry. That short sentence, written with a very black lead pencil, comes often to my mind as I note the progress of affairs in my own and other lands.

"He Wanted Kreuzers," is the real motive of John Bull's invasion of the Transvaal, his envious eyes having long been riveted upon that prosperous land, the desire of possession growing stronger with every new discovery of its mineral wealth.

"He Wanted Kreuzers," was McKinley's reason for defying honor and justice in turning against the Filipinos, after using them as allies against Spain. An army of speculators and "Bosses" and "Jingos" and "Trust" capitalists saw profit in the annexation of the islands, the bribe offered to the ambitious president being reelection to office, and the prospect of going down to posterity as the "Napoleonic" creator of an empire out of a republic.

If we cannot do anything to help the right or hinder the wrong in these matters, it is at least some consolation to know the cause of the evil, so that we may no longer waste our time in trying to understand the puzzling contradictions so glaringly displayed in the progress of "Christian Civilization," and in vain efforts to reconcile what an English writer calls "God's Cruel Work," with our innate and developed sense of justice. There is no need of going outside of this world, either up or down, to account for such phenomena: "He Wanted Kreuzers," points out the origin of the iniquities which selfish men are trying to father upon "God."

ELIZABETH E. EVANS.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY'S BUSINESS IN 1899.

The annual report of The Mutual Life Insurance Company, of New York, are successive records of great achievements. Year after year a rapid growth

is indicated; year after year its beneficial progress is made manifest establishing this institution as being not only the largest but the most progressive life insurance company in the world.

The report for 1899 shows that during the year the assets were increased \$24,327,212, and the total sum now held by this institution for the security of its policy holders is \$301,844,537.52.

The receipts for the year were \$58,890,077.21. The Mutual Life after placing \$251,711,988 to the credit of the reserve fund and other liabilities in accordance with the requirements of the New York Insurance Department has a contingent guarantee fund of \$47,952,548, in addition to the dividends to be apportioned this year.

In 1899 the claims paid arising from the death of policy holders amounted to \$15,629,979, and in addition to this the company paid during the twelve months \$10,739,057 on account of endowments, dividends, etc. The general business of The Mutual Life in 1899, when compared with the results during the previous year, is highly satisfactory. The insurance in force December 31, 1899, amounted to \$971,711,997. On December 31, 1899, the business in force aggregated in amount \$1,052,665,211. Since its organization, in 1843, The Mutual Life Insurance Company, of New York, has paid to its policy holders \$514,117,946.

The editor of THE CONSERVATIVE has been insured in the Mutual Life since 1865 and having twenty-six thousand dollars of its policies commends the company for fair dealing and absolute security.

A TALK TRUST. In the Chicago Record W. E. Curtis remarks:

"Senator Allen of Nebraska has introduced a most effective method of promoting legislation, which, however, is not available to every member of congress because few are blessed with his powers of endurance and voluminous vocabulary. When any amendment he offers to a pending bill meets with opposition he simply notifies the senator in charge that he will talk the bill to death unless his wishes are complied with, and they all know his illimitable powers of speech. Hence Mr. Allen generally gets what he wants in the way of legislation."

This is a distinct intimation of a talk trust which forces small retail talkers to consent to legislation. As an oratorical octopus William Vincent Allen—notwithstanding "the periodical diversions" to which W. E. Curtis made malignant allusion, a week or two since—has force, cunning, craft and puissance. The money-power may be submerged by the mouth-power if the vast verbiage factories of Allen and Bryan consolidate.