

CURRENT COMMENT.

Did it ever occur to you what a complicated affair a big railroad is? To go into all the details would take too long, but some day when you are not very busy and have a good opportunity make a study of a railroad in operation. The result will be both instructive and entertaining.

The result of the recent election in Iowa augurs ill for the prohibitory law in that state. Within the next two or three years a desperate effort will be made to repeal that law. It is to be hoped that the prohibition believers in Iowa will unite in the common cause against the liquor element, and that the repeal of the law will be prevented. Possibly by next year we may be able to encourage our temperance brothers across the line by our vote on the prohibition question.

The Union Pacific is the greatest railway system in the United States. For several years past the company has been hampered by its debt to the government. Last winter, however, congress granted an extension of time on the debt. The result is good. The company has begun a series of improvements which extend over the entire system. Smaller roads are being leased, several new extensions are being built, and other extensive improvements made. It is pleasant to see such results from the extension of the company's debt. It certainly disproves the statement of sundry anti-monopoly newspapers, which predicted entirely different results from those which are being worked out.

The Western art exhibition in Omaha is something which should be encouraged by the citizens of Nebraska. All fine art exhibitions should be encouraged. Every student should visit the exhibit of the Hayden art club in the senate chamber before it closes. The study of art tends to develop the best qualities of our natures, inspires us with a love for that which is beautiful, teaches us to admire that which is pure and noble and elevates us to a better, nobler condition. Do not let the opportunity pass by, but go and study the beautiful etchings and other works before it is too late. Although you may know nothing of art, two or three hours spent in studying those pictures may awaken in you a sense which has never been cultivated, but which, when developed, will make you nobler and better fitted to live with your fellow men.

The recent session of the Catholic lay congress which met at Washington at the dedication of the new Catholic university will mark an epoch in Catholic church history. The Catholic church has for ages held that it was unchangeable, and that the dogmas and theories which it has always held would continue to govern it in the future. But the recent congress took several steps that will do much toward making the Catholic church less exclusive and more liberal in its views with regard to other religious denominations. One of the most important steps taken was in regard to secret societies. The Catholic church has for a long period been governed by regulations providing that no member of that church could belong to a secret society. The new stand taken by this congress will permit Catholics to belong to any of the secret orders excepting the Masonic lodge. This exception will eventually be done away with, and on the secret society question the Catholic church will be like other churches. Another important move was to encourage Catholics to take more interest in matters pertaining to the public welfare. This plan, if car-

ried out, will make the Catholic element more for good than ever before, and will break down the selfishness which has heretofore governed its actions. On the other hand, however, it may be urged that this is only a move to make the Catholic forces more centralized, so that they can work more advantageously for their own interests. It is to be hoped, however, that love for our country's welfare is the motive. Resolutions were passed condemning anarchy, nihilism, etc., and in favor of more restrictions on the sale of liquor, and also for a better observance of the Sunday laws. Taken altogether, the work of the congress is encouraging, as it indicates that eventually the heretofore impassible barriers which have separated Catholics and Protestants may be broken down.

A good deal is being said by the papers of the state over the Rosewater-Gougar affair at Tekamah. The *Bee* has printed several columns of clippings from other papers in regard to the affair, and of course, according to these, Mr. Rosewater is a much abused man. But that dodge won't work. Mrs. Gougar may, or not, have proof for her charges. Be that as it may, the vast majority of the citizens of Nebraska, who know Rosewater by reputation, know of but little that is good that can be said of him. He sought to have a chance to display his cheek at that meeting in Tekamah, but Mrs. Gougar took the wind out of his sails by refusing to listen to him or to let him speak. We did not presume to say whether Mrs. Gougar or any other woman has any business going around making speeches of that kind, but we are firmly convinced that Mr. Rosewater would have been better off had he remained at home.

It is to be hoped that the decision of the New York supreme court, declaring the will of Samuel J. Tilden invalid, will be reversed by the court of appeals. The contest was made by a nephew who thought he hadn't received his share of the estate, and it is possible that he may win his point. The great issue at stake in the will is that it contains a provision for the endowment of a library in New York City. A large sum of money is set aside for its support, and a vast collection of Mr. Tilden's famous library is included in the donation. If the decision of the supreme court is sustained, New York will lose all this splendid gift. The nephew got as much as the others and had no reason to complain. Let us hope that the good of the many will cause the decision to be reversed and that the question of a few paltry dollars will not prevail over one wherein the public good will be so advanced as by the establishment of Mr. Tilden's proposed library.

Students, you can save money by buying your boots and shoes of Webster & Rogers, 1043 O street.

For anything in the line of millinery, cloaks and general "feminine fixin's" University girls should visit Mrs. W.E. Gosper's, 1114 O street.

A two cent stamp sent to L. W. Noyes, Chicago, will bring you a package of fine quality blotters. One showing a cunning little cupid dressed only in a traveling cap and grip, is represented as saying: "I am a 'runner' for LaVerne W. Noyes, the well-known maker of Dictionary Holders, and am here to point out the fact that a book held with the edge up will become filled with dust, soiled and spoiled unless hugged together with strong springs. The Noyes Holders are the only ones thus closely clasping the book. About 125,000 are now in use, and the later makes are so greatly improved—indeed are so perfect that Mr. Noyes is sad because nothing more is desired or can be done in this direction."