THE DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR:

"Give me another horse and bind my wounds."—*Roscoe Conkling.*

The late heavy showers have proved the wisdom of Mayor Boyd's suggestions as to the deepening the gutters.

The national debt was reduced nearly $10,000,000 last month. Mr. Sherman's shoes seem to fit Secretary Windom exactly.

Senator Dawes didn't wan't an introduction to the president during the rest of his term. Hence his speedy retreat from the Conkling forces.

The constitutionality of the Kansas liquor law will soon be tested. A druggist who has been fined $100 for selling a bottle of bitters without a license, has appealed his case to the supreme court, where the whole question of prohibition will be reviewed.

Russia evidently does not believe that a woman in politics is a blessing. The new Czar Alexander is restrained from granting a constitution to the people through the urgent entreaties of the Empress, who declares that there is no middle ground between an autocracy and a republic.

Jay Gould has his eye on the Illinois Central railroad, which is perhaps one of the best managed and fairly stocked roads in the country. Jay is said to have remarked that an injection of $25,000,000 of water wouldn't hurt the road a bit, or injure its stockholders.

It isn't only in the star route contract office that the new postmaster general is showing his efficiency. He has just concluded a contract for furnishing the postal service with postage stamps by which the department saves over seven thousand dollars annually.

The eastern dispatches think it a remarkable fact that fifty colored people were immersed at one time on the banks of the Potomac on Sunday. Pshaw! Council Bluffs made a showing of five hundred and didn't care to telegraph it all over the country, either.

SCIENTIFIC IMPOSTORS.

Of all the quacks and frauds which afflict the world the most despicable is that class which plays upon the credulity of the ignorant by means of pretensions to superior knowledge and scientific attainments. Nebraska is not without her share of these impostors who meet in a so called Academy of Sciences, and read papers stolen bodily from Chamber's Encyclopedia, or clipped from the files of the *Popular Science Monthly*. But for cheeky impudence one Prof. (?) Paige, who hails from Council Bluffs, is entitled to the grand medal. This impudent fraud, whose knowledge of science is less than that of the ordinary graduate from our High School, is now unblushingly airing his ignorance from the lecture platform, and drawing forecasts of dreadful disasters from the conjunction of the planets which would make an astrologer of the Dark Ages green with envy. According to the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil*, in a recent lecture, Prof. (?) Paige, "by the aid of a 300-feet canvas, illustrated the paths and positions of the planets at the present time, describing the peculiar detrimental effects on the earth, and showing the remedies and precautions to be observed to avoid danger as far as possible," while he succeeded in convincing a large audience that the lecture gave "marked evidence of considerable preparation, deep research and a knowledge of and interest in the subject matter which added much to its success and appreciation by those who braved the threatening storm and listened to it."

There was a time when people could be excused for listening to such shallow nonsense. In those days learning was confined to the few, and ignorance and credulity were the possession of the many. But in this age when a nine-years-old child is taught that a comet is not a sure sign of bloodshed and wars, that persons born under Saturn are as likely to succeed in life as those upon whose birthday Mars was in the ascendant and that the signs of the Zodiac have about as much influence upon the affairs of men as the fabled Man in the Moon, we are amazed that anybody even in the venerable town of Council Bluffs should sit in a hall for ten minutes and listen to such stuff without hooting the bogus scientist out of the house. Nebraska's homesteaders can't be duped so easily by men who see things darkly through a glass. Up in St. Helena, Dixon county, the question of the effect of the conjunction of the planets upon the earth came up in discussion. The disputants agreed to leave the settlement of the question to Prof. Charles A. Young, the most eminent authority on the sun and planets in America, an author of wide European reputation and a distinguished member of the National Academy of Sciences and Foreign Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society of Great Britain. The following reply was received to their communication:

Princeton, N. J. March 28, 1881.

Dear Sir: It is true that Saturn, Jupiter and Venus are near conjunction and T. near its perhelion. But they have no influence whatever of any sort on the earth. The nonsense talked about the matter is worthy of the dark ages. Two tom-cats fighting in the streets of Peking will disturb the world more than all imaginable planetary conjunctions. Yours

C. A. Young.

Possibly Prof. (?) Paige has greater familiarity with the "malign influences" of the planets and the atmospheric distemper that is supposed to be communicated to mortals in this globe by the rings of Saturn than a Chaldean sage or a Gypsy queen. There is no room for his profound learning in this section of the country. If he should happen to cross the river and meet one of our own great scientists he would probably repeat the scene described by the Roman satirist who declared that two augurs could not meet in the streets of Rome without laughing in each others faces. We are convinced that the place for Prof (?) Paige and men of his class, is on the tanks of the Ganges or Euphrates and not on the shores of the Muddy Missouri.

IOWA VS. NEBRASKA.

Emigration to Western and Northwestern Iowa this spring has assumed proportions by no means inconsiderable. More than in former years people are becoming impressed with the fact that Iowa is in many more senses than one a far better state for the farmer, mechanic and laborer, than either Kansas or Nebraska. The disadvantages incident to a beginning on the frontier are not experienced in Iowa as in Kansas and Nebraska. Iowa has no waste, arid lands, such as constitute about two-thirds of the area of Nebraska. She seldom experiences anything like even a partial failure of crops as do Kansas and Nebraska, on an average of two out of every four years, either by drouth, by ravages by grasshoppers, or both at once. Either one of the eighth or ninth congressional districts of Iowa contains greater agricultural resource than the entire state of Nebraska, and to say nothing of the advantage of proximity to market, and better railroad facilities, superiority of schools, church associations, etc. The very face of the country must recommend itself to the careful and disinterested observer as far more inviting than the flat and dreary, monotonous landscape of Nebraska. With nearly a million and three-quarters people covering 55,000 square miles of land in her limits unsurpassed in the great northwest for richness, she welcomes the immigrats who will help to swell her population to two and a half millions in 1890, and bids them welcome with the assurance that she can well find room for more than ten millions of happy, prosperous people.—[Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

We have no disposition to disparage the great state of Iowa, nor have we any desire to divert immigration from its fertile soil. We do, however, resent the attempt to belittle and dwarf the state of Nebraska by glaring misrepresentations. Iowa does undoubtedly contain a great deal more arable land than Nebraska or Kansas, but no lands in the state of Iowa can match in fertility the great body of lands in the Missouri River Valley, nor has she any grazing region that will equal the valley of the Platte. Partial failures of crops have occurred, in some sections of Iowa periodically, just as they occur in some sections of every other state in the west. In eighteen years grasshoppers have appeared but twice in Nebraska, and in the very same years in which Nebraska was scouraged a large part of Iowa and Minnesota suffered from the same cause. The so called arid lands of Nebraska are for the most part pasture or grazing lands which already support more live stock than Iowa now contains. In Iowa as well as in Nebraska stock raising is more profitable than the growing of grain, and Nebraska is far superior to Iowa as a stock raising country. As to the advantages of Iowa in the way of markets, the writer evidently ignores the fact that Nebraska has a great market in the West which Iowa does not possess. As to schools, churches and railways, Nebraska certainly affords as great advantages, according to her population, as any State in the Union. The schools of Nebraska are fully equal to those of Iowa or any other State in the West, and her churches and benevolent associations are of the best. The best evidence that Nebraska has been misrepresented by the Council Bluffs paper, from which we quote, is the fact that a very large percentage of the people of Nebraska have emigrated from Iowa. They lived in Iowa many years, came over into Nebraska to examine into her advantages, and, after a careful investigation, reached the conclusion that it was profitable for them to change locations. Some of the most wealthy farmers in Nebraska hail from Iowa. They sold their farms there for a big round sum and bought cheaper and better lands here, and have now farms worth more money than those they left. This stream of immigration continues from year to year, and it will continue in the future. People who have come here after years of experience have induced their friends to follow them. And this is the best proof that Nebraska is not the God forsaken country that the man across the river would persuade people that it is.

An interesting document published by the census bureau gives the distribution of population by latitude and longitude. In 1880, as in 1870, the line dividing the population of the country into two equal halves north and south lay within a few miles of the 40th parallel. In 1870, 50 per cent of the population lay north and 50 per cent south; in 1880, 48.6 per cent lay north and 51.5 per cent south; the slight movement south being due to the relative growth of the southern states. This parallel runs across southern New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and is only half a degree above Mason and Dixon's line. In 1870, a little more than half, 52.8 per cent, lay east of the 83d meridian; now a little less than half, 49.5 per cent, lie east of the same line; so slow is the march westward. Taking the country by strips, east and west, and the greatest relative growth, 169 per cent, from 1870 to 1880, has been in the most northern strip of all, between the 48th and 49th degree of latitude, because at its western end it includes Washington territory. The greatest absolute growth, 1,683,099, is in the strip between the 40th and 41st degrees, across Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. In strips north and south, the belt between the 99th and 100 meridian has grown most rapidly, 912 per cent., and any one who looks at the map will see that this belt across Kansas, Nebraska and Texas is the beach line of the western immigration in the last ten years. The largest absolute growth, 629,736, is in the north and south strip lying between the 73d and 74th meridian.

Sir Edward Thornton, the British minister at Washington, has been appointed ambassador to Russia. Sir Edward's kindly services had much to do with a peaceful settlement of the Alabama question.

Nothing short of sixteen of Prof. (?) Paige's conjunctions of the planets, four earthquakes, with a couple of siroccos and monsoons thrown in, can check Omaha's flood tide of prosperity.

By order of Governor Gear, the memory of ex-Governor Briggs was appropriately honored last Friday in Des Moines by the firing of half-hour guns throughout the day.

"By river to the sea" is the future motto of Western producers.

ASSESSMENTS.

The Petition of York County to the State Board of Equalization.

Aurora Republican, May 6.

Monday morning, in company with Commissioner Huling, we took our way to the capital city for the purpose of meeting with the State Board of Equilization, who meet for the purpose of making the assessment on railroad property of the state of Nebraska.

Upon arriving at Lincoln, we found there was a misunderstanding as to the time the board met; it having been published for Monday, May 2nd, but the board politely informed us they would not meet until Nednesday, May 4th, and then, that they might be in session for ten days before the assessments could be completed. Of course, this was a stunner, but not the least daunted by it, we began to cast about us for the best thing to be done under these rather discouraging circumstances. Through the kindness of Mr. Eaton editor of the Lincoln Globe we were enabled to find Hon. S. V. Moore, of York county, having previously run across commissioner G. H. Bumgardner of Fillmore county, who had been sent here by their respective counties for the same purpose that commissioner Huling had been sent from Hamilton county.

The board, consisting of Gov. Nance, Treasurer Bartlet and Auditor Wallichs, would grant us a hearing the next morning at 10 o'clock. That evening we learned that other counties would be represented during the week, but found it would be almost impossible for us to meet them on account of time, so we had a talk, decided to enter our protest against so low an assessment of railroad property this year as the one made in 1880, and selected Hon. S. V. Moore to prepare and present to the board some of the reasons why our people think railroad property ought to be valued for taxation the same as other property.

Tuesday morning we met the state board at the capitol, where we were received in due form, after which Mr. Moore addressed the board, saying:

Mr. Chairman and members of the State Board of Equalization:

The tax payers of York county fully believing that railroad property has in the past been assessed too low, especially in the year 1880, the board of county commissioners of York county, and these gentlemen present, who are authorized to represent Hamilton and Fillmore counties, have duly appointed me to appear before this honorable board to advise and urge an assessment of railroad property that will compel it to bear its just proportion of the burdens of taxation. While speaking before you in behalf of the people and being actuated by nothing more or less than a sense of justice. I do not want to be understood as impugning the motives of any railroad officer or of this honorable board, but realizing that we are all more or less liable to error in judgment and that correct reasoning depends upon a correct premises, I wish to give some of the seasons why the people dissent from the past action of this honorable board. There might be many facts and figures given to show why railroad property should be assessed higher but no doubt the members of this honorable board are conversant with these facts and figures having sought the information necessary to a faithful discharge of their duty, therefore we will merely notice a few of the premises occupied by the board in the past, to which the people take exceptions. The people understand that the state board of equalization and the history of the railroad property hold the same relations, as to their duties, as that of the precinct assessor and the lister of other property of the state. The law makes it the duty of the railroads or their agents to make a return to the state board of equalization, to fix a valuation upon that property equal with the assessed valuation of other property in the state; anything that effects the value of other property in the state for the purpose of assessment should in like manner affect railroad property in assessment, nothing more or less. If so, the reason given by the board of equalization for a decrease in value of railroad property in 1880 as compared with that of 1877 is not just as compared with other property in the state, for we do not make the per cent. of property a basis of assessment. A farm may bring its owner ten percent. on capital invested one year, owing to a favorable season, it may not bring two per cent., or may result in a per cent. of loss, yet it does not affect the assessed valuation of the farm. Again two contigious farms equal in natural advantages, both in a state of tillage, one controlled with foresight and ability, managed with economy, driven by industry, will pay its owner ten per cent. on capital invested. The other farm managed with the absence of these essentials to success, may not bring its owner one per cent., yet it does not affect its assessed valuation. The improvement being equal, the two farms are for the purpose of taxation valued the same per acre.

Again, a merchant may own the real estate on which he lives and transacts business, and the purchasing power of the consumers of merchandise may be so weakened by a failure of crops for a season, which paralyzes business of all kinds to a greater or less extent, that he may not be able to realize two per cent. on his capital invested, yet this does not affect the value of his property for the purpose of taxation. Again, a mechanic may own the house in which he lives, and because of depression in business from some cause he may not be able to obtain work at any price, yet this does not affect the assessed valuation of his house.

Now, while one specie of property subject to assessment is engaged in producing articles for consumption, the other is engaged in distributing these productions to the consumer; and if production fail, commerce must suffer unless she seek to make good her loss by exacting higher rates for transportation, still further oppressing production and consumption and wherever commerce does this, if there is a difference made in valuation, that property possessing this great advantage of making good its losses from the wealth of others, should be valued the highest and whether transportation avail herself of the advantage she possesses or not, no sane mind will attempt to deny but under the present condition of things they are powerless in the hands of commerce, in the distribution of produce and articles of manufacture to the consumer. The one may be compelled to pay two prices for everything they need, and the other forced to sell at half cost of production, rather than lose all. Justice demands that property possessing undue advantages should be made at least, to bear its full share of the public burden. It matters not whether property is valued high or low, but that we have an equal assessed valuation, that all property may be made to furnish its just proportion of the revenue necessary to support good state, county and municipal governments.

The amount of revenue necessary being fixed, a uniform low or high valuation can only increase or decrease the per cent. of taxation on all property alike. But when a specie of property possessing, through its unlimited power of taxation of allindustry, that ability to fix the real valuation of all other property, seeking to avoid by a low valuation its just share of the public burden, it becomes a grave question, and the only way to arrive at a just and equal assessment of all property is to subject all to the same rule in fixing its valuation.

If one-half of the market or cash value is the rule then apply it to all alike. If one-third of the market value is the rule then follow it. If a farm is worth in the market $12 per acre, then assess at $4.00. If another has improvements to increase its value to $15, then assess at $5. If its location or nearness to market give it advantages that will increase its market value to $30 per acre then assess it at $10 per acre.

If a railroad is worth in the market $24,000 per mile, then assess it at $8000 per mile. If from more substantial construction and better material, its market value is $30,000 per mile then value it at $10,000 per mile. If having superior equipments and so favorable a location that a greater amount of freight passes over its line making its net earnings large thus adding a value to its franchise and increasing its value to $60,000 per mile and it cannot be bought for less in the market, then value it for the purpose of taxation at $20,000 per mile. A feeder or short line railroad owned and operated by a main line or road will collect just as much freight as the same number of miles of the main line, therefore in that respect equally valuable; the increase value of each on account of connection with each other is reciprocal.

As we understand it, it is the duty of the assessors to inform himself as to the cash or market value of the property he is called upon to assess, it being the duty of the owner, or his agent to report under oath the amount kind and quality of property, and the assessor fixes the value, each being accountable under the law for a faithful discharge of their duty.

In like manner it is the duty of the corporation or their agent, to report the amount, kind and quality of their property, being amenable to the law for a truthful statement, and it is the duty of the board of equalization to place a proper value on the same as reported. A low rate of valuation of railroad property in other states has been pointed out or referred to in justification of our own, this is wrong unless taken in comparison with other property of those states. If Iowa saw fit to assess higher in some cases and in others lower than we do and Kansas higher in every case, yet it might be that the assessment of railroad property in those states were more equal, with the assessed valuation of other property taken into consideration than ours now are. If not, and Iowa officials permitted themselves to be blinded by sophistry and swerved from duty by improper motives, it is no just reason why we should blindly follow their footsteps without first investigating.

We are not here to advise or urge this honorable board to do that which they believe after mature deliberation to be wrong; but people knowing that the railroads have their well paid attorneys, whose services are valued according to their ability to make money for their employes, and that they have sought in the past to make money for these corporations by seeking to obtain at the hands of this honorable board, so low assessed valuation of their property, that the people believe it to be far below that of other property of the state.

Mr. Huling then said: I shall not attempt to add anything to what has already been said by Mr. Moore, only that the people of Hamilton county will expect from this board a valuation of railroad property for taxable purposes, equal in all respects to that placed upon other property for the same purpose, and they will be very apt to hold this board responsible for the faithful and honest performance of that duty.

Mr. Bumgardner said: Filmore county only asks that railroads bear a just proportion of the public burdens, and they appeal to you gentlemen for that protection which you alone can give or withhold.

In closing the argument in behalf of the people for a just assessment of railroad property we recited the facts heretofore set forth in these columns to the effect that "ten years ago railroads, in this state, were assessed at about $12,000 per mile, but that in 1880, while their property was worth twice as much as ten years ago, the same roads were assessed at only about $9000 per mile. That these roads cost from $30,000 to $40,000 per mile, and that they would sell any time for from $75,000 to $100,000 per mile, which ought to be a pretty good basis for an assessment valuation. That this property ought not to be assessed at less than its cost, it ought to be valued for taxable purposes as other property, which is about one-third its cash value, which would fix a valuation for taxable purposes at about $14,000 per mile." This statement brought out a vigorous cross fire from the members of that honorable body, which plainly indicates the position they assume and the necessity of a defense of that position.

Thus has ended the first effort ever made in the state of Nebraska in this direction; but it will not be the last, unless relief, ample and permanent, be forthcoming.

STATE JOTTINGS.

John Hill, living near Admah, Burt county, hung himself last week in his stable.

Fairmont has organized a business men's association.

Mrs. Strohm, of Gosper county, planted over 2500 fruit and forest trees on Arbor day.

A libel suit for $5,000 has been instituted against The York Tribune by the county treasurer of York county for alleged slander.

The house of A. J. Wagner, nine miles from Oakland, was struck by lightning last week. The family escaped.

Lincoln police are enforcing the street cleaning law.

The license of T. H. Tibbles as elder was revoked by the last Omaha presbytery.

Jos. Jack, jr., living near Columbus, was run over by a plow last week, the point entering on his left side, cutting his lung and causing his kidney and spleen to protrude from his body. He was living at last accounts.

Pawnee City's Christian congregation will commence the erection of their new church next week.

Mr. W. H. Jameson, of Geneva, received severe injuries from being struck with the thills of a dump cart. Two of his ribs were fractured.

Peter Klanschi and Michael O'Herne, two farmers living near Duncan, have had a feud of several weeks standing over the possession of a strip of land. Three affrays have taken place between them, the last culminating last week, when O'Herne attacked Klanschi with a knife and stabbed him fourteen times. He will recover.

Crete's council requiring a license of $250 until June 1st, all the saloons have closed.

I. P. Olive has returned to Plum Creek from Texas.

A man by the name of Lee suicided at Edgar last week by hanging himself in his barn. It seems he went to the barn, took the rope from the horse's neck, climbed up on a wagon wheel, fastened one end of the rope to a rafter and the other around his neck and jumped off, the fall breaking his neck. His wife, seeing the horse come from the barn alone, went out to see what was the matter, and found him dead: No cause for the deed is known.

Sheep are selling in Polk county for $5 per head.

Osceola school district voted bonds to the amount of $3500 for a new school house.

Daniel McKenzie, who attempted to commit suicide last November at Kenesaw, has developed into a raging maniac and has been sent to the insane asylum.

Madison has three churches and two saloons.

Garden seeds are in poor supply at Niobrara.

The Dakota City Argus says that $50 an acre will be the ruling price for the best farms of Dakota county before another year. Within five years it thinks the price will advance to $75 per acre.

The little daughter of John Bockenhauer, of LaPorte, was bitten by a rattlesnake, but recovered.

Wheat stands four to five inches high in the Republican valley.

Wm. B. Whitney, the young man accused of infanticide at Cambridge, was acquitted last week.

Alma is to have pottery and tile works. Clay in the vicinity is said to be excellent for the purpose.

Seward wants a landlord for her new hotel.

The contract for Fremont's new creamery has been let for the sum of $10,000.

A proposition for bonds of $3,000 will soon be submitted to vote at Bloomington for bridge purposes.

Estimates for running Fremont's city government for next year foot up $5,500.

Probably 300,000 forest trees will be put out in the neighborhood of Fairfield this spring.

About 40,000 acres will be put into wheat in Hamilton county this year. The seeding is more than half done.

Hundreds of sheep are being brought into Gage county.

A. Heslope, of Sherman county, had his leg broken below the knee by a kick from one of his horses.

The Ponca coal company will begin sinking their shaft down to coal as soon as the weather is settled.

L. A. Bates, of Sarpy Centre, will ship from South Bend over 20,000 trees or cuttings, to Furnas county, to be planted on his timber claim by a farmer living near.

The contracts for building the new U. P. shops at Grand Island, has been awarded to St. Louis parties.

Work will commence immediately on the railroad extension from Plainview to Creighton.

The new railroad bridge at Ulysses, is finished at last, and trains are running to Columbus.

George Meisner, near Sheldon, is putting in fourteen hundred acres of wheat and two hundred acres of corn this season. Thirty-five teams are doing the work.

Charlie Moss, formerly of Crete, is an exhibitor at the Paris Salon.

Lord Scully, of London, England, will soon colonize his land in Nuckolls county with people from his country. He owns about 18,000 acres in Hardy precinct.

Crete contributed $150 to the Dakota sufferers.

The Blair hog thieves were fined $50 and costs.

A large number of locations have been made on Beaver creek, Furnas county, this spring.

Polk county has organized a Bible society.

The University cadets will visit Omaha on May 14th.

The body of one Charles Hunter, of Tecumseh, was found recently in the Nemaha river. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict of suicide.

The elevator of B. F. Stilly, at Exeter, was destroyed by fire last week. Loss, $2,400; covered by insurance.

A county alliance will be organized at Geneva on May 14th by the local alliances of Fillmore county.

An addition is being surveyed to the town of Niobrara.

A tree planting mania has struck Red Cloud and hundreds of trees are being planted.

Niobrara was overrun by a band of 80 plundering Poncas, last week.

A circulating library is established at Arapahoe, beginning with two hundred volumes.

During the spring there will be a large immigration from Franklin county to the Gunnison country.

Nelson is organizing a brass band.

Never perhaps in the history of Nuckolls county has the outlook been better than at this time and the prospect for bounteous crops is a splendid one.

Stromsburg has voted $2000 in bonds for a new school house.

Cambridge's new hotel is rapidly approaching completion.

A Lancaster county farmer has just finished planting 1800 hills of sweet corn, 3360 hills of potatoes, 600 hills of peanuts, 240 hills of watermelons, 120 hills of muskmelons, 240 hills of tomatoes, and 360 hills of sweet-potatoes.

EXPERIMENTS IN TEMPERANCE.

A SUGGESTION THAT IOWA TRY THE HIGH LICENSE.

Des Moines Register.

There is evidently a growing feeling in Iowa in favor of the temperance regulation enacted in Nebraska the present winter, which is a severe form of license law. Saloons in towns of a thousand people are compelled to pay one thousand dollars license. It is argued that this form of regulation will get rid of dens and holes, and rotten or poisonous whiskies, and that it will put the saloons in charge of men who are financially responsible, and so can be reached by the companion law making saloon-keepers liable to pay damages for making drunkards of men, and beggars of their wives and children.

There is something in this, and better than all, it is an experiment in a new direction, and any experiment in this intricate field is to be welcomed and entertained, until like hundreds of other experiments in the same field, it is thoroughly tested and found to be a failure, or but half way a success. No proposition in this matter is to be despised, since the question of decreasing the great business of drunkard-making stands as far from solution to-day as it did in the days when it numbered Noah, the patriarch, as one of its victims. The one great strength of the theory or proposition of total prohibition, is in the hope rather than in the belief that it may prove successful. Thousands and thousands of men would vote for it, not because they believe in it fully, but because they would be willing to try any and everything that has in it the promise of good. They would see it tried. They realize that all other plans have failed, and they are willing to see this one tried.

No doubt this class of people hold the balance of power in Iowa to-day. We believe that a law forbidding the sale as a beverage of everything that makes drunk come, they would vote to try it. If it should fail in reaching the heart of the great evil, as we believe it would unless public sentiment should advance with it, the same people would the next year be willing to try the high license or some other theory. The trouble is to-day that we have far more law on this question than we have public sentiment to sustain it.

There is in Iowa even now enough of law, if it had the aggressive public sentiment back of it to enforce it, to shut up every saloon in the state. We have, first, all alcoholic liquors banished by state law; and if public sentiment were abreast of the law in every community, not a drop of such liquor could be sold in the state. Besides this, we have a law giving to every community in the state the option and the power to prohibit all other so-called intoxicating drinks, including ale, wine and beer. Further than this we have the law making the saloon keeper and the property he is in responsible for the drunkards he makes. Heaven knows we have law enough in Iowa now, if law will bring what is wanted: if only we had public sentiment to enforce it. But to accomplish anything in this world, an ounce of public sentiment is worth ten ten thousand pounds of law. This is the power behind the throne, and on the throne; it is the throne. It is this which must be reached.

Having so much law, and so little public sentiment to enforce it, makes intelligent men fear that still more law in the same direction, and no more sentiment, would only result in still more conspicuous failure; but for our part we are willing to try it—not because we have entire faith it will succeed, but because the havoc of drunkenness goes on under the present system of regulation, and because so many good people believe that this stronger method would succeed, and so many others would like to try it. All these people are necessary to any good temperance work, and so we want them all kept in the temperance ranks. If this project, when tried, shall fail, they will then be willing to try something else.

For these reasons we are willing to see the proposed amendment, if it does not prohibit the total manufacture of alcoholic liquors in the state, fairly tried. If it does prohibit manufacture for export or for sale for other purposes than a beverage, we are opposed to it, and so we believe will be the great body of the people of Iowa. Iowa is not yet one-sixth in cultivation, and already we are wondering what to do with our corn crop. Cultivate the other five-sixths, and then apply the close cultivation of the old countries, and we shall have twenty such Iowas as we have to-day, producing twenty times as much corn; and what could we do with it then, all in the the actual grain or corn? We must, to sell it to the world, make it into the shape in which the world wants it. We must condense it in order to get it to far away markets, which will use it in one shape but not in others. We can sell at the Mediterranean ports very little corn as corn, but as alcohol we can sell millions of dollars' worth of it annually. In South America we can sell hardly any of our Iowa corn, but in the form of alcohol we can and do sell much of it. One distillery in Des Moines sold last year in South America hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of Iowa corn in the form of alcohol, which was there made into varnish. So on over the whole world.

But this is a diversion. We were writing of something by which Iowa might lessen the amount of drunkenness in the state. If we could shut all the saloons in Iowa, which so many thousands of good people think would prove the heaven of all temperance reforms, and give it a thorough trial, and that too should prove a failure, then we could try something else, and perhaps the high license idea would be the next best experiment.

There is only one sure method to discover whether an article is worth anything or not, and that is to try it. Mr. Walter B. Gardner, Foreman American Steam Gauge Co., No. 36 Chardon St., Boston, Mass., did this with a popular preparation and observes: The St. Jacobs Oil has been in use among the employees of this company, who have been burnt and injured working among the machinery, and it never failed to cure them. I can highly recommend it.

Almost Crazy.

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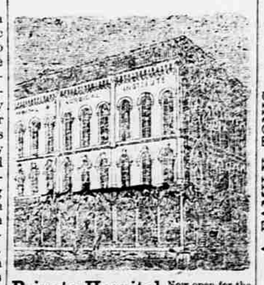

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