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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS. E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

THE Blair educational bill will probably be laid up to dry until next season.

Congress uses up \$2,000 worth soap annually, and yet some of the congressmen are not clean-handed.

grist up to date amounts to three bills which have passed both houses. SENATOR JONES is neglecting his Flor-

Congress is still grinding away, but the

ida orange groves and is devoting his entire attention to Michigan Palms.

IF BISMARCK seizes the Sandwich Islands there may be a demand for the American hog to make sandwiches there.

THE number of immigrants from Europe to this county last year was the smallest of any year since 1879. The total was 316,149, of whom 97,913 came from Germany, 35,277 from Ireland and 25,657 from England.

"What are the democracy getting in Washington," screams an excited contemporary. From the present outlook of a deadlock between the president and senate it appears as if the democracy was principally getting left.

REPUBLICAN postmasters in Nebraska smile cheerfully over the Kilkenny cat fight between the rival wings of the Nebraska democracy, but they continue to draw their salaries with unvarying regularity while the circus is going on.

PROMINENT citizens of Omaha have petitioned congress to abolish the presidency. Had they asked that congress should demolish the president the petition would have been several miles long and the democratic party.

CRIME has its epidemies like everything else. During Saturday and Sunday St. Paul, Cleveland and Philadelphia furnished somewhat similar sensations. In each of these cities a man killed his wife and then committed suicide-a very proper ending, as it saved the expenses of a murder trial in each case.

THE sooner the perplexing question of grades is definitely settled in Omaha the better it will be for all concerned, and especially for the property owners whose the greatest. The nearer level the gradthe more advantageous the street as an artery for trade and an avenue for traffic.

ROSCOE CONKLING's friends have taken the field openly in favor of his candidacy for the U. S. senate. Conkling's unpounded ambition cannot be curbed. He has made a small fortune in the law business, and is now in a position to enter the field as a very formidable candidate. The contest promises to be very exciting, and will by no means be fought out on the old line of stalwarts and half-breeds.

OMAHA made a big stride towards the front last week in bank clearances. Her bank clearings for the week amounted to \$3,300,000, placing her fourteenth in the list of the thirty-one clearing house cities, putranking Milwaukee, Detroit, Denver, Minneapolis, Cleveland and Memphis. Kansas City only beat Omaha by \$300,-000, while Louisville only exceeded our clearances by \$156,710. In the increase over the corresponding week of last year Omaha leads all other cities, her percentage of increase being 84 and 8-10ths per cent. This excellent showing causes the Kansas City Times to say that "Omaha is showing a phenomenal burst of speed.' Well, we should smile.

THE theorists who are bawling se loudly that the state will lose money if the convict labor system is abolished argue on the basis that the punishment of crime should be made a source of income to society. If convict labor could be made productive and at the same time not competitive with honest industry there would be no room for further discussion. Other things being equal it is admitted that it would be better for the prisoners and better for the state if they ould be steadily employed in lines of labor which would at once give a healthful activity and the cost of their isolation from society at large. Taxpayers would be relieved from a portion of the burden which the administration of the state lays upon their shoulders. But convict labor is wrong in principle and harmful in practice because it punishes honest industry by stimulating the work of criminals. Prison contracts can only be taken by wealthy firms or by individuals with large capital. When trade is dull or the market overstocked the prison factory must continue its operation just the same as if the demand for goods were at its height. Stock must carried over and the work must go on. For the reason that it takes capital to carry large supplies on a weak market, the prison contructs are let to large capitalists at low figures, and the profits in the end are corondingly large. Honest labor finds itself underbid in the markets by the owners of convict labor. Prices are demoralized, wages fall, lockouts and susensions are the natural result. It is wrong in theory that the state should profit by the work of criminals at the expense of law abiding citizens. The experience of the past five years has shown that the results of the leasing of convict labor has been to throw new complicalious into the operation of the labor nerket and to creat profitable monopolies for heavy capitalists.

A Car of Corn

COZAD, Neb., Feb. 26, 1896.—[Editor of the BER.]—Here with please find invoice showing freight paid for a car of corn shipped from here to Denver, Colorado. We ask you to take notice that our freight rate is almost louble what the car of corn brought us in. It is pretty tough for a farmer to work a year to raise a corn crop which sells for 14 cents a bushel net in the market after paying 28 cents a bushel freight for hauling it a disance of 300 miles. Yours truly,

The invoice which accompanies this letter from our correspondent shows that on February 17 his car of corn, consisting of 83,509 pounds, was sold in Denver for \$274.77, or at 82 cents a hundred. The freight on the consignment was \$169.24, and commission \$6.87, which, deducted from the gross amount of the sale, left \$98.65 as the net result of the transac-

This is a beautiful commentary on the equitable rates which the bogus rail road commissioners assure the people of Nebraska they are now enjoy ing under their fostering care What wonder is it that the producers of this state complain bitterly of corporate extortion when the cost of transporting their grain to market is double what they obtain as the result of their toil. Is it surprising that demands for legislative restriction of the monopolies comes from every section of the state when more than half of the value of Nebraska's heaviest product can be deducted by its carriers to market as toll for bringing it into the hands of the consumer? The special case under consideration is probably an aggravated one. The section is in the western part of the state and rates are against the market in which he sold his corn. But what right have the railroad companies by corrupt collusion with elevator rings and combinations of grain buyers to bar out shippers from the nearest markets by tariff rates which are practically prohibitory? During the past winter thousands of bushels of corn have been burned by Nebraska farmers for fuel while the poor of the east have been furnished with bread by charity. And while the west is being bled mercilessly to roll up dividends on the watered stock of the great corporations its people are cooly told that regulation, except through the tools of monopoly, will not regulate and that agitation to redress the grievances of extortion and oppression is an unwarrantable interference with vested privileges and the rights of property.

Valuable Franchises.

The disgraceful disclosures connected with Jake Sharp's purchase of the board of aldermen has aroused New York to the value of the franchises which for years the city has been virtually donating to all comers who could buy the members of the city council. The fact that a milthe signar would comprise two-thirds of | lion dollars in cash was offered for the right to lay a street railway on Broadway has shown New Yorkers how recklessly they have been plundered in years past by the men whom they have elected to guard the treasury of the city. It is now proposed to sell the rights of way to street railways, electric light and steam heating companies to the highest bidder. Had such a course been adopted in times past, the city would now be deriving enough revenue from these franchises to pay a large part of the city taxes, instead of which the entire revenue in taxes and everything else, from all the streets, railroads comlots abut on the streets where the cuts are | bined, has amounted to only \$144,000 a ear during the past ten years. Statis ties show the cost of cleaning from the streets the dirt brought there by the horse car companies amounts to more than they pay the city in taxes. Franchises furnish valuable channels for profitable investment. Whether the state is permitted to grant exclusive franchises or not, most of them are in their very nature exclusive. franchises, for street railroads are limited by the capacity of the street and the convenience of the public. The occupation of a street by gas and water companies prior to paving makes it all the more difficult for competition to follow, and confirms a practical monopoly to the favored company. The construction of every line of railroad from one point in the state to another gives the company at some points not intersected by other lines a close monopoly of the traffie. The value of franchises will become more clear to the granting power as the profits directly derived from their possession are investigated. The time is coming when cities and legislatures generally will take these special privileges and the powers which they confer upon the grantees into consideration in the levying of taxes. A franchise is property, and as property should bear the burdens of the state whose maintenance gives it protec-

tion and value. Our Spring Boom.

The real estate and house renting advertisements with which the columns of the BEE are beginning to overflow, show the setting in of a spring movement in these lines which bids fair to exceed any which Omaha has ever experienced. It is to be a great year this year of grace 1886, for the metropolis of Nebraska. East and west are alike contributing new capital to its resources. Investors are discovering at last that they have overlooked a profitable field and are pouring in to take advantage of a rising market. New commercial and manufacturing enterprises are steadily putting in their appearance and old ones are enlarging their facilities for business. The immigration boom in the state outside of Omaha has already begun, and Omaha will reap her full share of the benefits of the development of Nebraska. She has the position to do so, the foundations upon which to build, and she is rapidly learning to understand her commercial strength and resources. Doubling in population in five years the present rate of increase is still greater. Whether it is to be maintained will depend largely upon the push of her teading citizens, the wisdom of her municipal government, and the good judgment of her property owners. The era of rapid growth in Omaha was ushered in oy a wise and comprehensive system of public investments based on the experience of older cities and fortunate in avoiding the costly mistakes from which other communities have suffered. Upon the development of these on the same lines depends largely the future of the city. A wise economy will seek to beautify Omaha with the best payements, to increase her sanitary advantages by the most approved sewerage system, and to render her accessible to the neighboring country by broad and well graded thoroughfares for trade

and traffic. The spring opens with

preparations advanced to join the ousiness part of the city to the southern section by the two viaducts whose construction will add materially to the value of a large but hitherto greatly neglected portion of Omaha. The boulevard scheme is steadily gaining in favor, and when once entered upon we shall be assured of the system of parks which we have needed so long. It is the strong feeling of confidence in Omaha's future, induced by an understanding of her present remarkable growth, which is making itself felt in the steady rise in real estate, and the large number of private improvements under contract or in contempla-

The Reorganized Alliance. The Nebraska Farmers' Alliance was reorganized at Hastings last Wednesday with a view to making its influence felt in the next legislature, as well as in the choice of congressmen and state officers. The fact that farmers of Nebraska have been burning corn for fuel this winter is within itself a powerful appeal to the self-interest of every farmer to seek a remedy through legislation that will prevent the railroads from confiscating their products by exorbitant rates. When the Farmers' Alliance was organized four years ago it was crude and without experienced leadership. Still it made itself felt and respected. If it did not absolutely reduce railroad tariffs it stopped the railroad managers from levying increased tolls. In casting 20,000 votes for its candidates, the alliance created a wholesome respect for the farmer as a political power. If the farmers of Nebraska will all join bands as they should, for their own protection, they can compel nominations next tall that will put honest legislators in the place of the railroad cappers and monopoly henchmen. In reorganizing, the alliance has not committed itself to any particular political creed. Good republicans and good democrats can be members of the alliance and remain faithful to their parties so long as their parties do not make themselves mere machines to register the will of corporations. The time has come when the Farmer's Alliance must occupy the same position in regard to the farmer as the Knights of Labor do to the workingmen. Capital is always organized. Corporations are always ready for concerted action where their mutual interests are concerned. The farmers who constitute the bone and sinew of the land must organize if they desire to repel the aggression of organ-

ized capital. WE cannot comprehend why the board of public works persists in squandering the city's money in needless advertising. The city has a contract for advertising at about one-half the legal rate. The council awarded the contract to the BEE because it reaches almost every house in the city, and because its columns give greater publicity to any announcement than could possibly be had by advertising in all the local papers put together. In fact the BEE circulates nearly twice as many papers in Omaha as all the other papers combined. With such a medium as the official paper the city has no need of outside advertising, even if were not morally obligated under contract to do all its advertising in the BEE. But the board of public works, like some other bodies we might name, likes to patronize all the papers at the expense of the tax-payers, when, if it had to dive into its own pockets, it would hesitate to do so. But it is not merely squandering the tax-payers' money for needless advertising, but paying two prices for the work in readerless papers. While the BEE under its contract can only charge fifty cents per square for city advertising with a sliding scale downwards, the papers that have no contract are, under the law, allowed to charge one dollar per square and will doubtless collect it. This is economy with a vengeance. The city is always hard up and can scarcely meet running expenses, but it can throw away a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars a year on useless advertising just to make the board of public works solid with the newspapers.

SENATOR JONES, of Florida, is still making love in Detroit instead of making laws in Washington. When it is stated as a fact that the senator has during the past few months sent to Miss Palms nearly a ton of his speeches, delivered during his twelve years in the senate, we are not surprised at the young lady's refusal of his heart and hand. Had he sent her a carload of flower seeds from the agricultural bureau, or a train load of oranges and a pet alligator from his Florida plantation he might have captured Miss Palms and her prospective fortune of \$15,000,000, which is soon to come to her from her septuagenarian father.

THE struggle among the shoulder straps to knock down the army plums in Wash ington is distressing in its rivalry. A score of candidates for the coming brigadier vacancies are represented either in person or by friends at the capitol and the war department is besieged by "influence" and bombarded with "records." The best authorities agree that Howard and Terry are on top for the two major generalships, and Willcox, Merritt, Ruger, and Ayres for the two brigadierships.

JUDGE COOLEY, of Michigan, left all his classes at the Michigan university law school last week and took the lightning express for New York. Judge Cooley has been offered \$10,000 a year to act as attorney for several large corporations in that city. Railroads which pay for their law by the year can overbid the average educational institution and have a large margin for "incidental expenses" in their legal departments.

ACCORDING to the Lincoln Journal, Ne braska has only three representatives in congress, Manderson, Laird and Weaver No one ever heard of Senator Van Wyck, of course, and Congressman Dorsey as compared with Jim Laird cannot even be mentioned.

NEXT Thursday Grover Cleveland will celebrate his first anniversary at the white house. The loaves-and-fishes democracy will congratulate itself that one year of Grover has already run by.

It is a somewhat singular fact that it railroad wars the cuts are almost invariably made to the west. If it costs only fifty dollars at present for a first-class passage from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast, why should not the passage

from San Francisco to Omaha be fifty dollars, instead of the 'old rate, which is almost double the west-bound cut?

So after all Miller and Morton have not kissed and made up. Mr. Morton believes in harmony but it is the harmony which the lion feels when the lamb is inside of him.

REAL estate still booms, but poor pavements will give real estate a black eye if Omaha is silly enough to invest in the wooden block idiocy

WITH the first day of March comes the inflated gas bill. The council may reduce the price but the meter has got in its work all the same.

THE city election occurs wiithn five weeks and registrars will soon issue their calls to the voters to enroll them-

PROMINENT PERSONS.

Tom Edison is so deaf that it is by no means an easy task to interview him. Jay Gould's daughter does not spend twothirds of her \$5,000 pin money. It is reported that Christine Nilsson will re-

tire from public life next year. Theodore Tilton is living quietly in France, and will not return to America. Sarah Bernhardt will come to this country

with the flowers that bloom in the sp.ing. Bismarck costs Germany \$18,000 a yearhardly up to a big railway officer's pay here. The richest old maids in Philadelphia are the Misses Phillips, who have about \$1,500,-

Edison on the day of his marriage transferred to his wife \$1,000,000 worth of real es-

Lord Gifford, Colonial secretary at Gibraltar, won the \$25,000 prize in the last Spanish Mrs. Baird of Philadelphia has a fortune of

\$2,000,000 made by her late locomotive-building husband. Mme. Bernhardt is knitting a long purse

and expects to make 1,000,000 francs in her American tour. Governor Long, of Massachusetts, admits

that he contemplates writing a novel during the coming spring. John F. Betz, the five-millionaire of Philadelphia, is building a \$55,000 mausoleum at

Laurel Hill cemetery. Gov. Fitzhugh Lee gives receptions every Thursday evening, at which full dress suits are considered a necessity. The late William F. Weld of Philadelphia

was the richest man that ever died in that city. He was worth \$53,000,000. The widow of General Santa Anna is in

Mexico spending her declining years in a rocking chair smoking clearettes. W. T. Hornady, an Iowa boy from Oskaloosa, wrote "Two Years in a Jungle," a book which has attracted much attention. Mr. Watterson continues to improve, his

mind being entirely clear yesterday. He is expected to be out again within a month. Theodore Thomas is threatened with paralysis of his right arm because of such constant use of it in conducting his orchestra.

Lady Dufferin, who takes a personal interest in missions, is now studying Hindustani with Miss Thoburn, an American Methodist

Mme. Ruttkay, sister of Louis Kossuth, denies that her brother is living in poverty. He is 83 years of age, and spends seven hours daily in writing his memoirs. Col. Peter McGlashan, the last brigadier

whose commission was signed by Jeff Davis, just before the fall of Richmond, is carrying on a saddlery and harness business in Savannah. Dr. Burnette, the California dentist who filled the teeth of Preller, the victim of the

St. Louis trunk mystery, refuses to come to St. Louis to testify at the trial unless he shall be paid \$15,000. Bismarck has been reducing his weight His doctors say by the Banting system, but the New Orleans Picayune thinks he has

probably lost the combination of the beer vault lock. Miss Cleveland has her quiet receptions as well as public levees, in which one can see her and have a chance for a pleasant talk,

without the feeling that one must "move on" and let somebody else come in. Mr. Arnold Morley, the new whip of the liberals in the house of commons, is a young and singularly handsome man. He is a lawyer, and has wor ked as diligently at that profession as though he was poor and friendless instead of the son of a man whose in-

come is \$1,000,000 a year.

Good and Bad. Philadelphia Record. A bad newspaper is bad every day in the week and a good one good.

> Living Upon Traditions. Boston Herald.

Both parties are living upon the traditions of a name out of which all distinctive mean-

Hello, There

Papillion Times.

The state of Nebraska should grapple with the telephone monopoly and reduce the outrageous telephone rentals.

Gen. Thayer for Governor.

Hebron Journal. Gen. John M. Thayer is being spoken of as a candidate for governor. The old general would have lots of friends if he enters the race.

The Use of Ivory. Philadelphia Record. In Central Africa ivory is so little valued that elephants' tusks are used to poke the

use of ivory for poker chips. Be Careful Where You Step. The ad-interim editor of the Herald says he

fire. A more advanced civilization marks the

has has his ear on the ground listening to rumbles about Gardner from Washington. The public will please be careful where they step for a while. United, Profitable and Serene.

The report that the Western Export Asso

ciation-that is, the whisky pool-has gone

to pieces is declared unfounded. Good men

may fall, churches may be unable to pay their debts, railroads and telegraph companies may become bankrupt, but the whisky pool remains united, profitable and screne.

The Ir consistency of Phil. Armour. St. Louis Republican, Being asked the other day for the rule by which he succeeded in business. Armour, the Chicago hog baron, replied that it was to get on God Almighty's side when God Almighty was against him. This was considered in Chicago an extremely elevated form of expressing a plous sentiment. How Mr. Armour puts it in practice is illustrated by the fact that he has just sent a man to Washington to lobby against the American cow in the interest of hog butter.

Sensible Advice as to Care of Health St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Proper care of health is more impor-

a cold may be the precursor of any one of a dozen diseases. Exposures that at other seasons would be harmless, in the spring sometimes prove fatal, and it accordingly be hooves everybody, when the snows are disappearing and the rains begin, to look after his health. The Chinese reverse our medical customs, and, with sound good sense, pay their doctors for keeping them well, the salary of the medical man stopping the day his patient goes to bed and beginning again only when the sick man is able to attend to business. It were well if we, who make it the interest of the doctors to keep us in bed, should generally adopt some such custom as that of the Chinese, and take more pains to keep well than to get well when prostrated by illness. Much doctoring is to be deplored but an occasional overhauling of the system by a physician is advisable, no matter how excellent the health, and there is no time when this can be done to better advantage than in the spring.

> Contented To-Day. A. C. Pickett in Indianapolis Journal. Contented to-day.

So does the maxim run.
And still it is as true
As, when time begun,

The fault is in me and you. One day is the same as another, Yesterday is to-day, And to-morrow again, my brother, In a day will be yesterday.

The Twin Monopolies,

Among the interesting matters brought o the light in the recent hearing before the secretary of the interior was the contract between the Western Union and the Bell Telephone company. This agreement was made in order to prevent all competition between the telephone and the telegraph, and in this respect it has been remarkably successful. Jay Gould is the autocrat behind both corporations, and it is under one of his peculiar contracts that they are required to work hand in hand and furnish the public cheap service at high rates. The compact was entered into Nov. 10, 1879, and according to its terms it will run until Nov. 1, 1896. Unless the government suit against the Bell company succeeds the allied corporations will hold sway for ten years longer, with the Bell company subject to the dictation of the Western

Under the Jay Gould compact the Beil company pays a royalty of 20 per cent. on telephone receipts after deducting 30 per cent. for commissions and expenses. A telephone costing \$3.42 is rented by the original Bell company for \$14, and the royalty paid the Western Union is \$1.96 royalty paid the Western Union is \$1.96. It is estimated that the latter corporation has already received \$1,500,000 in royalties from the Bell company. It is under the Jay Gould contract that the Bell company bleeds the public, and in turn is bled by the Western Union. Both corporations may be relied to the public of the tions may be relied upon to put forth their utmost efforts to defeat the govern-ment suit, which, if successful, will destroy the most rapacious corporate alli-ance ever devised by the wizard of Wall street. If for no other reason, the gov ernment suit will be a celebrated case be cause it involves the existence of as wealthy and powerful a combination as was ever arraigned in a court of justice in the United States.

But the alliance between the Western Union and the Bell company is not limited to the payment of royalties. It is stipulated that so far as the law will per mit the telephone company must not al-low its wires to be used for sending ordinary business messages, market reports, or news dispatches in any caswhere such competition would affect the Western Union, or the Gold & Stock Tel-egraph company. Whenever the Bell company receives a message to forward telegraph it must use the Western Union lines unless the sender otherwise These stipulations explain why there has been so little improvement in the telephone service and why the carry expectation that the means of communication would soon be available for would be hard to name an important in vention which in the course of ten years after being put to use met with as little improvement as the telephone. With perfected wires and appliances messages might be sent great distances by tele-phone, but the Bell company is bound only to charge extortionate prices but to permit no improvement or extension of ts service. The only explanation why the Bell company ever entered into such an reement is that it feared an attack on its patents by the powerful Western Union, and considered it better to divide the "profits" and protect itself by an alliance with the telegraph monopoly.

The "Retreating Desert."

Chicago Tribune Statements are put forth from time to time that an increased rainfall is pushing the line of the arid lands further west every year and furnishing new strips of country for agricultural uses. The Hartford Times publishes a letter from a Kansas correspondent giving an account of the successful cultivation of lands in western kansas heretofore supposed to be arid, but it is noticeable that all these experiments have been conducted east of the ninty-ninth meridian. Twenty five years ago the limit of the arid lands was fixed between the ninety-ninth and the one-hundredth meridians, according to present indications it will be a long time before farmers can raise crops without irrigation west of the latter line anywhere between Mexico and Canada. There has been an increase in the rain fall, but not enough to convert raw prairie and buffalo range into land that can be used profitably for tillage. The soil contains all the element of plant growth, but it cannot be made productive without liberal irrigation. At the same time facts show that in Kansas and Nebraska agriculture has been carried west of the line which was supposed a few years ago to which was supposed a few years ago to be the limit. In central Nebraska hay and corn have been shipped from points west of the ninety-eighth meridian, and in Kansas crops have been produced little further west. However, the old belief that farming cannot be conducted without irrigation west of the ninety-ninth meridian still holds good, and, after full allowance is made for the increased rainfall, it must be admitted that the "retreating desert" is disappear-

ing very slowly.

If the desert lands of the west are to be reclaimed it must be by means of irrigaion, and the rapid exhaustion of the pub lie domain will soon make this matter one of great practical importance. Desert Land act should be amended. the law now stands it applies only to the states of California, Oregon, and Nevada, and the territories of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, and Dakota. Some provision to encourage irrigation should be made also for Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, and the Indian Territory, which is certain to be opened to settlement before many years. The requirements off the act are to be a local that lands paturally are. loose that lands naturally ductive are entered as desert lands, and in other instances the entry is made to secure the land for grazing purposes and without any intention of irrigating it. The law permits single en-tries of 640 acres, and allows three years in which to make proof of reclamation. By having each cowboy make an entry a cattle company can secure the exclusive

upon to show that crops have been proupon to show that crops have been produced by irrigation. It was supposed that to encourage irrigration large entries must be allowed, but a general water supply when once established can be used by the owner of 160 acres, as well as by a farmer holding four times as much land. The "retreating desert" will disappear only before a general system of irrigation, and in order to secure this the desert land act will require some radical amendments. some radical amendments.

Deluded Railroad Officials,

Now that our railroads have underaken, in the teeth of the constitution, to impose a tariff on beef dressed at the west in favor of eastern abattoirs and butchers, why may not they extend its beneficent provisions to other products of western manufacture-say bacon, leather, glue, and the various forms of iron and steel manufactures? To be sure, the constitution of the United States provides that no state "shall lay any imposts or duties on imports or ex-ports." Yet now come these great rail-road corporations with their discriminations for or against the manufactures of certain sections—such is the dressed beef of the west and the pig iron of the south -and deliberately proceed to nullify the constitution by doing what it expressly decrees shall not be none. In the mean time are not the officials of these trunk lines treading on dangerous ground? They may for the moment think that the servant is greater than his lord, the creature greater than its creator. Never theless, it will take but a few more such acts as this discrimination against western dressed beef to atterly dispos-sess them of any such delusion.

A Portrait of Castelar.

Accompanying a frontispiece portrait of Spain's greatest orator, in the March Century, are two papers, from one of which, by A. A. Adee, we quote the following: "It was my good fortune to meet Castelar in the autumn of 1869, when he was flushed with the triumph of the speech on the Spanish constitution. The first impression one has on seeing him is that nature has exhausted herself in building a perfect machine for human vocal utterance. Slightly above the middle height, and stoutly built without positive corpulence, his notably erect carriage gives to his splendidly rounded chest seemingly titanic proportions. The effect is enchanced, perhaps, by his habit of wearing a low-cut waistcoat and a slender necktie, leaving a snowy expanse of linen, on which a rare ink spot at times attests the absorbing character of his studious pursuits. A low collar shows the prominent sinews of a neck of almost taurine contour. Square, powerful jaws enframe a large, straight-cut mouth. The lips, slightly sensuous in their fuliness, are half-nidden by a heavy moustache of wiry, darkbrown hair, curved enough to relieve i from the suspicion of bristliness. He is always clean-shaven as to cheek and slightly florid complexion more noticea-ble, and brings into relief a rounded button of a mole just below the left corner of his mouth. I saw no trace of stubble on his face, even in the saddest days of the republic, when he, the responsible head of its power, saw the inevitable end approaching and, like poor Lincoln after Fredericksburg, might have said, 'If there is a soul out of hell that suffers more than I, God pity him.' His head, thrown well back, tip-tilts his nose more than nature intended. It better nose, but he seems to be satisfied with it. limpid, neither strikingly large nor dark, but they have a way of looking one frankly through and though, as with self-consciousness of in-tegrity of convictions. Well-rounded brows slope upwards into a somewhat receding forehead, made more conspicuous by baldness. One looks, and significant the super-human frontal bulk of Webited to twenty-five miles and must not be It is a chin, too, is inadequate, used by more than two firms or page. used by more than two firms or passons. | to be more of it. If he had possessed Serrano's forehead and chin, the republic might have been a living thing

"But his voice! Liks Salvini's, munication would soon be available for heard it is never to be forgotten. Wheth-long distances remains unrealized. It er in the softly modulated tones of conversation, when the peculiar Andalusian accentation is now and then characteristic, or rising to the sober force of demonstrative declamation, or trembling with feeling, or sweeping all before it in a wild Niagara of invective, it is always res-onant. His slightest whisper pieces to the furthest corner of the hall of deputies, his fiercest Boanerges blast is never harsh. This orator found his chiefest implement ready fashioned to his use. He never had to fill his mouth with sea-shore

> Betting on Another Man's Game. Chicago Herald: "Boys, it isn't always safe to gamble on the greenness of country chaps," remarked a drummer in the smoking car: "only last week I was in a little town down in Missouri, and the bar-room of the hotel was full of the gawks of the town. I worked several smart snaps for drinks that would not have caught a single sucker in a city, and had begun to think myself in luck. After awhile I heard a couple of fellows dis puting about something and I asked them what the row was about.

"'Jim, here' says one, 'declares he kin go out and pace off a quarter of a mile an' come in two feet of the actual measurement. He's a braggin', and kin never do it, stranger. I've just bet him \$5 he can't; will you hold the stakes?'

"'I'd a good deal rather put up \$25 against him, says I; there's no man living can pace off so correctly as that.'

'I go you the \$25,' says the fellow they called Jim, promptly pulling out his money, and of course I couldn't back out. So the \$50 was staked with the landlord and we went out to pace. We hunted around and found a twenty-foot pole, and Jim went into the middle of the street in front of the hotel and asked me which way he should go. I told him I didn't care, and after we had marked the spot he started off pacing very deliberately and with much caution. We followed him up with the pole, measuring after him. Pretty soon he stopped, stood still and waited for us calling out that that was his quarter mile limit. In a few minutes we had measured up to him, and what do you suppose the distance was? Thirteen hundred and twenty feet to an inchexactly a quarter of a mile. I had lost as clear as a whistle, and I thought it the most wonderful feat I had ever witnessed. Before leaving town, how-ever, I discovered how the thing was done. Jim was able to pace that quarter of a mile to an inch because he had care-fully measured it off with the same pole we had used, and marked the two ends in a way known only to himself. More than that, he had measured from a certain spot in front or the note. directions, and was thus prepared to go directions, and was thus prepared to go any way his victim might select. The fellow who bet the \$5 with him was a roper in, and I wasn't the first man they had made a sucker of, by a long shot. I'll have revenge on that town if I have to start up a skin fare layout or a drug store there, you see if I don't. Buell's Meeting With Grant at Shiloh.

From General D. C. Buell's article in the May Century, entitled "Shiloh Re-viewed," we quote the following: "About half-way up we met a stream of fugitives that poured in a constantly swelling cur-rent along the west bank of the river The mouth of Snake creek was full of them swimming across. We arrived at the landing about one o'clok. I inquired tant at this than any other season, for use of a large grazing tract for three for General Grant, and was informed a cold is easily contracted in the spring, and years, and forfeit it only when called that he was on his headquarters boat,

nearly against which we had landed. went on board, and was met by him at the door of the ladies' cabin, in which there were besides himself two or three members of his staff. Other officers may have entered afterward. He appeared to realize that he was beset by a pressing danger, and manifested by manner more than in words that he was relieved by my arrival as indicating the near approach arrival as indicating the near approach of succor; but there was nothing in his deportment that the circumstances would not have justified without disparagement to the character of a courageous soldier. Certainly there was none of that masterly confidence which has since been assumed with reference to the occasion. After the first salution, and as I walked to a seat, he remarked that he had just come in from the front, and held up his sword to from the front, and held up his sword to call my attention to an indentation, which he said the scabbard had received from a shot. I did not particularly notice it, and after inquiring about the progress of the battle and requesting him to send steamers to bring up Crittenden's division, which was coming into Savannah as I left, I proposed that we should go ashore. As we reached the gangway I noticed that the horses of himself and his staff were being taken ashore. He mounted and rode away, while I walked up the hill; so that I saw him no more until the attack occurred at the landing late in the evening. I state these particulars of our meeting with so much detail because a totally incorrect version of the place, manner, correct version of the place, manner, and substance of the interview has been used to give a false impression of the state of the battle, and a false coloring to personal traits which are assumed to have had the issue in control."

The Tailless Cattle of Florida. The Present: "I noticed yesterday some cattle here in Jacksonville, and thought that, aside from their leanness and diminutive size, there was something else peculiar about them, and studied for some time until I suddenly discovered that there were some of them minus tails; others looked as if they had about half of that useful appendage cut off. In a country where flies and mosquitoes are as plentiful as they must be here I think it no less than downright cruelty for people to treat the poor creatures in this shame-

less manner My remarks were greeted with a roar of laughter. "Bless your heart my young friend, the people don't do that, it's the alligators.

"Alligators," said I, astonished.
"Yes, the alligators."
"How can that be?"

"Oh, they grab them when they are feeding in the water."
"And bite off their tails, I suppose?"
"Yes, they do. You see they creep up so quietly that the cattle do not notice their approach, and the first thing the animal is aware of is a jerk in the rear. He tries to get away but it is of no use, the harder he pulls the tighter the alligator holds on, until the appendage gives way and the conqueror swims off

Highly interesting sight, I should

"Well, rather, as the question of ownership is often highly disputed, though I never saw a case yet in which the cattle came off victorious.

A Kansas Soldier's Fate.

Kansas City Times: "I finally reached Kansas, and enlisted in a Kansas regiment, where I served during the war. On my way I met a tall, bony, awkward looking young fellow who said he was born in Maine, who, like myself, was anxious to enlist. We trudged along together and enlisted. The war separated us, and I have never hears anything us, and I have never heard anything about him. His name was Ned Morrill; do you know of such a man? I wonder if he ever amounted to anything?'
"Were his initials 'E. N.' Morrill?"

ooks, and significant of Web-

intelligence of your old comrade," re-joined George Peck mourntully. "I know Morrill well. He went to the and is now doing time in what Don Platt, the editor, used to call the 'Cave of the Winds. "Is that a penitentiary?" queried the

man. "Not exactly," replied the waggish penitentary. "Far worse than a penitentlary. Morrill was ordered away from home by the people and is a miserable, wretched congressman from Kansas. What a congressman from Kansas. What a horrible fate for a promising soldier of the union?"

The Same Only Different. Chicago Merchant Traveler: A young man, dabbling in real estate and known financially quite well by Phil Armour, went into that gentleman's office lately. "I've hit a great chance to invest in a piece of property that will double in value in a year," he said excitedly. "Yes," replied Mr. A., quietly.

"House and lot, dirt cheap, on Grand boulevard."

"Yes," responded Phil again. "Owner caught in the market and forced to sell." "Nobody knows anything about the

chance but me." "All I need is enough to bind the bar-

gain. "Could you let me have a thousand?"

"That's good." "When can I get it?"
"Not at all. I said that I could let you have it, but I didn't say I would. Better go and see somebody else. Good by."

Gen. Vilas Expresses Himself. Washington Republican: Col. E. H. Hawkins, of Alexandria, stated to a reporter yesterday that he called on the oostmaster general Tuesday last in the interest of a young Virginian and life-long democrat, who was seeking a subor-dinate position in the post office depart-

ment, and the following conversation occurred:
"Mr. Vilas," said Col. Hawkins, "won't you give this young man a place;
''No!'' said the Postmaster general,

"This is no alms house." "And the young man is no pauper," replied Col. Hawkins. "Now, Mr. Post-master general, at your door sits a colored republican, Silas Ross by name." "And that nigger will remain there as long as I am at the head of the post office department," replied the Postmaster gen-

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