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Readers of The Bee know how vigorously this journal fights for the upbuilding of the west. Factories, jobbing houses, packing houses, business enterprises with large pay rolls are always welcome. It must not be forgotten in these days of great commercial growth that the oldest financial institutions in America and the staunchest are the life insurance companies. They are built for all time. Their corporate powers are granted, not for the lifetime of an energetic business man, but for a future unlimited in years. They are more permanent than national banks because not dependent upon congressional legislation. They are more reliable than any other form of business enterprise because death, fire and the ordinary casualties of commercial ventures are discounted in advance and cannot entail upon them the disasters which wreck every other form of undertaking.

The Bankers Reserve of Omaha, launched three years ago by B. H. Robison, its president, is demonstrating here in Omaha the fact that the west will maintain a life insurance company if it is conservatively managed, up to date in its insurance policies and safe as an investment proposition. Within the present year this company has

**More Than Quadrupled** its total business. Its new policies made possible under the stipulated premium law of Nebraska are taken by the best business and professional men of the state. President Robison has his heart and his head set irrevocably for

**\$10,000,000 Within Five Years** at the outside. He is rapidly pushing his company's business into adjacent states, though naturally he looks first to Nebraska. Every man in the state has a personal, present selfish interest in the success of the Bankers Reserve life association and

**All Loyal Nebraskans** will personally resent unseemly, unwarranted and malicious attacks upon the credit of the company by the advocates of alien insurance. They want this money invested at home, in securities they can personally inspect, under the supervision of state officers who are selected from amongst their own people. It goes without saying that all things being equal a Nebraskan will prefer his neighbor to a stranger as the custodian of his savings. Life insurance companies are the greatest savings institutions in the world. B. H. Robison, Omaha, wants the best corps of life underwriters in the United States and invites correspondence. He can put a hundred good men in the field profitably.

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**FREE** Special Japanese Perfume "Pride of Tokio." **ROYAL SPECIFIC COMPANY, 131 Broadway, New York City.**

**Carpenter's Letter**

(Continued from Sixth Page.)

Shanghai. It has perhaps more vice than any other in the Celestial empire. It has all the wickedness of the Chinese married to the depravity of the foreigners, making up a combination of bestiality which you will find nowhere else in the empire. There are boats of bonded opium in its harbor and many opium dens everywhere.

Shanghai has one street which is noted for its wickedness and upon this street is the biggest opium den in the world. It has perhaps an acre of floor space in its three stories and its interior is furnished in the most extravagant fashion. Its furniture is of costly teakwood, its walls are inlaid with marble and its rooms are divided by carved screens inlaid with stained glass. It has many rooms all given up to the smoking of opium. These rooms are of different grades and in them you may see all classes of Chinese. There were perhaps a thousand smokers in the den when I entered it and I went through hall after hall, breathing the fumes of sickly smelling vapor, through which the rays of the electric lights struggling found their way.

I stopped at the cashier's at the entrance and was offered a pipe. The cheapest, I was told, would cost me 10 cents a smoke and the dearest could be rented for 20 cents or a quarter. As I went through I saw that many men had their own pipes. Two mandarins dressed in satin lay and dozed with pipes of ivory beside them. In another room coolies were smoking with pipes of common wood and in a third I saw two girls lying on cushions of velvet, upon couches of teakwood inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Each girl had a long pipe in her mouth and one as I looked filled her lungs with the opium and blew the smoke out through her nostrils. The girls were lying facing each other. They rested themselves on their elbows as they cooked the opium over the lamp and then laid their heads down on little red pillows and dozed off to sleep.

In another section of the opium palace I was shown the rooms for private parties and in one saw a dozen men lying on six couches in pairs. They looked up and one said "Chin Chin" as I stood there. I was everywhere treated politely and there was no disorder. The receipts of this den are, I am told, about \$1,000 a day from one year's end to the other.

**An American Morphine Fiend.**

I heard here of an American who has been ruined by the evil effects of opium. He is a son of an eminent Baltimore physician, and was educated at Heidelberg, Germany. While there he got neuralgia and at the advice of his physician took morphine injections. The result was he became a morphine fiend. His family, to cure him, sent him on a sailing vessel out to Japan. He had no opium during the voyage, but as soon as he landed he went to a native drug store and demanded some. The Japanese druggist refused to give it to him without a prescription. Thereupon the American drew a knife and went for the druggist. The druggist fled from the store and the American helped himself out of the morphine bottle.

Shortly after this the man left Japan and came to Shanghai. Here he forged an order on Consul General Goodnow and cashed it. He was for this arrested and put in the consular jail. At this time he looked like a skeleton, his eyes were hollow, his face was drawn and he was a nervous wreck. The jail physician said he should have no opium. The American said he would die if he could not get it, whereupon the physician rather brutally replied:

"Well, suppose you die, who will care?"

The man replied: "Nobody," and the physician went away. The physician's orders were carried out and the criminal was given neither opium nor morphine. He became desperate and tried to burn down the jail. He had delirium tremens and his reason would have gone had it not been that a murderer who was in on a life sentence in the next cell took pity on him. The murderer reached through the bars and let the opium fiend hold his hand for hours night after night in order that he might feel that he had human companionship.

After a time the delirium tremens passed away and the man began to get better. His appetite became enormous. He ate five full meals a day and took a bowl of rice to bed with him every night. He began to fatten and at the end of his sentence was a new man. He appeared to have a horror of morphine and swore he would never touch it again. Consul General Goodnow shipped him on a sailing vessel to America. He deserted at Hong Kong and about two months later was back at Shanghai looking as bad as when he was arrested. He is still an opium drunkard, and at the present writing is believed to be carousing in Japan. **FRANK G. CARPENTER.**

**Ascents of Mount Blanc**

The table of ascents of Mount Blanc for 1900 has just been published. It shows that the Swiss lead, with thirty-eight ascents, followed by the French, the Germans and the Americans, England being quite low down on the list, with only five ascents. A good many of our climbers were on other kopjes at the time, and we may console ourselves for our loss of place by the reflection that English ascents were most numerous in the days when Mount Blanc was more difficult than it is now. The pioneers, in 1786, were Savoyards. The first Swiss and the first English ascents followed in 1787. Then came the first German ascent in 1802, the first Polish ascent in 1818, the first American ascent in 1819, the first French ascent in 1834, and the first Italian ascent in 1840.

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