

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 24th day of January, A. D. 1901. M. B. HUNGER, Notary Public.

Take your railroads in at night or Harriman will get them.

Those Nebraska holdup lobbyists are not smooth enough yet to embark into the kidnaping business.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland has a fine queen to emulate in the late Queen Victoria of England.

Mrs. Nation should get a few pointers from Mrs. Lease if she wants her notoriety to last more than a month.

That senatorial game seems to have progressed to that stage where the players know all the cards by the backs.

With the approach of inauguration day the cabinet makers may be expected to come promptly to the rescue of President McKinley once more.

King Edward of England will open his first House of Commons on February 14, when every member should be prepared to receive a royal valentine.

It is not clear whether the new corps of dentists that is being recruited for the Philippine service is to be let loose upon the American soldiers or upon the Filipinos.

Mr. Bryan has written out his objections to the bill providing for the redemption of silver dollars. Had Mr. Bryan failed to object, the surprise would have shocked the country.

Nebraska has three boundary disputes on its hands as a result of the unreliability and fickleness of the Missouri river. The river changes so often that, like Tom Watson, it is not always certain itself "where it is at."

Jules Verne has again declined to apply for a place among the immortals of the French academy. Verne's immortality as a story-teller does not depend on any titles conferred upon him, and he knows it better than any one.

The United States' position with Cuba is much the same as that of the man who kindly consented to hold a baby a few minutes for a strange woman. The nursing bottle is about dry and there is yet no sign of the mother's return.

It is announced on apparent authority that England will not accept the Hay-Lancefort treaty as amended by the senate, but will make some counter proposals. The mills of the diplomats grind slowly, and while it remains for the diplomatic tangles to be straightened out before the canal is dug, ships will continue to go around the Horn for several years to come.

The horse, which was supposed to have been superseded by the bicycle, the trolley car and the automobile, proves to have had more staying qualities than were credited to him. The demand for horses at good prices has practically made good to the farmer the losses suffered in several parts of this state by poor crops. The horse is a winner, no matter what competition he has to meet.

According to Washington advices Senator Tillman put his pitchfork into action in the senate again and the way the hay was turned over was a caution. The house committee on pensions occasioned the outburst, and if that committee uncovers itself before the end of the session it must work lively. A windmill urged on by a Nebraska zephyr is a model of repose beside Tillman in action.

The Nebraska farmer is pleased with the blanket of snow which now covers the ground, assuring protection for the winter wheat and moisture for the spring months. The cattlemen of the western ranges will have no complaint unless the temperature goes much lower than at present. Everything indicates another good season is in sight for this state. Nebraska is out of the dumps and proposes to stay out.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH IN CANADA.

The information is given out that the Dominion government has made all arrangements to purchase the telegraph systems of Canada, extend them in all directions and operate them as part of its postoffice department. In pursuing this policy the Canadians will only be following the example of the parent government in Great Britain, which for many years has conducted the telegraph as a branch of its postal service.

One of the principal objects aimed at in promoting government ownership of telegraphs in Canada is to satisfy the general desire to have transoceanic communication by cables owned by Great Britain under both the Atlantic and the Pacific and joined at each end by wires owned by the Dominion crossing that country, thus practically girdling the globe by a cable and telegraph service entirely under British imperial control.

The Canadian government already owns several short telegraph lines and has had the foresight, in granting charters to private companies, to insert in most cases clauses providing for purchase of the lines on agreed valuations. At present the control of practically all the wires in Canada is in the hands of two great corporations, the Great North-western Telegraph company and the Canadian Pacific Railway company, whose property is now being quietly appraised. Each has lines roughly estimated to cost from \$7,500,000 to \$8,000,000, while the Bell Telephone company of Canada has a capital of \$5,000,000, so that the aggregate investment if all are taken would exceed \$20,000,000. Of course, the Dominion government would have no difficulty in financing the transaction.

The same forces that are making for the postal telegraph in Canada cannot fail to exert their influence in the United States. If it is to the advantage, from commercial, military and civil points of view, for Great Britain to have telegraph and cable service through all its world-scattered possessions, it will be equally important for the United States to be similarly equipped for current trade, as well as for emergencies. The success of the postal telegraph in Canada, moreover, will remove the ground for the objections urged in this country that it would be a hazardous and costly experiment foredoomed to failure, because no one will pretend that the United States cannot establish a successful postal telegraph if Canada can do so.

THE LOOTING IN CHINA. Bishop Potter said in an address a short time ago that if he were called upon to hold a brief for either of the two great contestants in the present struggle between China and the powers he should choose in favor of China. He expressed the opinion that we should be ashamed of ourselves for our treatment of the Chinese, which he declared has been a disgrace to our religion.

The reverend gentleman was referring to the unchristian conduct of travelers, tradesmen, promoters and bankers in China. Had he been dealing with the looters it would have been necessary to use stronger language. A dispatch from Peking says that the league of civilian looters of all nationalities has been disrupted by differences which have arisen over the division of the spoils "and there now seems to be a chance for honest men, including the Chinese, to get their dues."

The correspondent adds: "If only one-tenth of the charges of murder, assault and robbery against the foreigners are substantiated, as there is much reason to believe will be the case, Christendom will have cause to blush for shame." That there has been an organized league of civilian looters is a revelation and it is earnestly to be hoped that no American was connected with it. While the soldiers of some of the European powers have not only looted, but have committed far worse outrages, the American troops have conducted themselves well, and it would be humiliating to find that even a single American was a member of a looting league.

Conditions in China should make Christendom blush for shame and they should also impress the powers with the duty of making reparation for the outrages that have been committed. When they present their claims for indemnity they should not forget that the empire which is at their mercy has a counter claim that by every principle of justice and equity ought to be recognized.

MUST ADOPT AMERICAN METHODS. The Department of State is receiving information from our consuls showing the alarm which American industrial activity is creating among European manufacturers. Recently a report was received from the American consul general at Berlin giving quotations from a comprehensive article in one of the leading papers of Hamburg, which discussed American prosperity and competition. It was urged that the continuation of this prosperity is only possible through a large portion of the American production finding a market in countries which Europe has hitherto dominated commercially. The writer admitted that the invasion by American goods of European home markets is endangering the prosperity of many German industries and in order that Germany may be better prepared for the coming great struggle among the nations for economic supremacy, he advised that American machinery be installed, American raw materials purchased and American methods studied at first hand through the sending of representatives to this country.

A report from the American consul at Edinburgh, Scotland, received a few days ago, noted an alarming decline in the metal industry of Great Britain, due chiefly to American competition. The consul stated that the newspapers in general in their comments on the situation, blame the manufacturers for not adopting labor-saving machinery, paying more attention to technical education and in other respects following American methods. The consul states that it is the accepted opinion that in the matter of technical education Great Britain is far behind the United States and Germany. The fact that the United States is better equipped than any other

country for the struggle for economic and commercial supremacy is fully recognized in Europe, and while the adoption of American methods would undoubtedly be helpful to European manufacturers, particularly those of Great Britain, yet with our overwhelming natural advantages the United States may be confidently expected to hold what has been acquired in the last few years and to steadily add to it. American commercial supremacy is assured.

THE DEMAND FOR LEADERSHIP. The demand of the present age for leadership in every branch of material and intellectual activity. We need leaders in industry, in science, in religion, in public life. Discussing the subject from the standpoint of the church, the well known religious weekly, the New York Independent, offers some stimulating suggestions. It says:

This generation needs not merely example and exhortation; it needs instruction. It wants leaders who can lead its thinking along religious lines. People will find religion the most interesting of all subjects if it is properly presented. We need a great deal more of doctrinal preaching. The people are hungry for it; not the doctrinal preaching of a hundred years ago, but of this year of our Lord 1901. It is pitiful, it is delightful to see how the half-instructed young people hang on it. It is a happy gift to be able to be a leader of thought, but if a preacher is conscious that he cannot be this, he can at least be a leader of life, and that is a more blessed thing. If he cannot be a leader in either thought or life, then he has no business in the pulpit. That is the place for leaders. If the pulpit has in any measure lost its power, or shall ever lose it, it will be because it ceases to lead in thought or life.

What is true of the pulpit is true of every occupation and profession. A physician who strikes out and keeps up with modern discoveries in medicine and science will hold his position as a leader, while his associate, who is enveloped in obsolescence, falls behind and is displaced. The lawyer who commands by thorough knowledge of his subject and applies legal principles with incontrovertible logic to current business relations will stand at the front of the bar, while those who merely follow in the beaten path will make no impression in their profession.

In the wide field of industry the demand for leadership is even more exacting. The successful manufacturer or financier is the man who is able to grasp a world-wide situation and utilize to the fullest extent the economies of correlation and consolidation. The leaders in the railway world, for example, are the men backed by unlimited resources, because they have demonstrated their ability to survey the transportation systems of the country as a whole and to co-ordinate them along the lines of industrial development.

In national affairs it is also leadership that counts. The conditions confronting the nation, growing out of its expanded sphere of action, must be met with foresighted statesmanship, in the interest not only of the present generation, but of the generations that are to follow.

That leaders will not be wanting when the requisition is made may be as safely relied upon in the future as in the past. But who the leaders are will depend upon their own equipment and their success in inspiring confidence in their own ability by their works.

THE RECIPROCITY POLICY. The republican party has for years favored the policy of trade reciprocity. It has declared for that policy in its national platform and made provision for it in its tariff laws. Reciprocity has been championed by Mr. Blaine, by President Harrison and by President McKinley. The present administration has taken more practical steps than any of its predecessors to make reciprocity an actuality. Yet a republican senate has not acted upon the treaties negotiated and probably will not act at this session, while the interests affected are using all the influence they can command against these reciprocity agreements, the ratification of which was earnestly recommended by President McKinley in his last annual message.

The Home Market club of Boston, an influential organization, has proclaimed its opposition to the pending treaties, asserting that they are not based upon the true principle of reciprocity, "which is the exchange on favorable terms of dissimilar and non-competing products, and that, on the contrary, they are based upon the principle of free trade and will introduce a damaging if not ruinous competition." Hon. John A. Kasson, the commissioner for the negotiation of reciprocity treaties, has replied to the club's assertions and ably defended the reciprocity treaties, particularly the one with France, to which opposition is chiefly directed. Mr. Kasson points out that as to the "true principle of reciprocity" it has never been defined in the legislation of this or any other country, and he says the club's censure in this respect is not well founded, for it contradicts the provisions of the law by which the executive was controlled in making the treaties. As to the statement that the treaties are based upon the principle of free trade, the commissioner of reciprocity easily shows it to be erroneous. Taking the French treaty as an example, he states that while the Dingley law allowed a reduction of 20 per cent of the duties on every article named the actual average reduction made by the treaty is only 6.8 per cent of existing duties and the great majority of dutiable articles imported into the United States are untouched. The administration, remarks the commissioner, was more conservative of protection than was the Dingley tariff act, as must be apparent to everybody.

In regard to the assertion that the treaties will have an unfavorable effect upon all business and introduce a damaging if not ruinous competition, Mr. Kasson says they have received the earnest support of business organizations. He declares that so slight will be the effect of the French and colonial treaties upon the existing competition of foreign imports with home production that our producers would not know that the proposed modifications of rates had been made, except by their

public announcement. So far as the French treaty is concerned, France has conceded more to us in the way of liberal commercial interchange than we have to her. She allowed reductions averaging from 23 to 48 per cent of her present duties, while we allowed her reductions averaging less than 7 per cent. The republican party has declared that "protection and reciprocity are twin measures of republican policy and go hand in hand." A republican senate should not discredit this declaration.

FARMERS' LIBERTY THREATENED. The money devil appears. According to the Lincoln correspondent of a Chicago paper there is under way a move of the grain elevators of Nebraska to shut off bucket shop dealings in this state, thereby depriving the honest farmer of any opportunity to learn the market price of his grain. Of course, when the bucket shop has been abolished, the money devil, operating through the grain elevator man, will be in a position to fix his own prices for wheat, corn and the like and the farmer will again writhe under the oppression of the money power. It is accepted almost as an axiomatic fact that a Nebraska farm cannot be successfully conducted unless closely connected with the tape line. The fluctuations of puts and calls are as essential to the farmer's prosperity as rain and sunshine in their season, and it is no uncommon sight to see the honest husbandman leave his plow in the furrow while he, in imitation of Israel Putnam, rides old Dobbin at his topmost speed to the nearest hamlet in order that he may get the latest quotations of the wire. Some of them, who are inclined to be plutocratic in their own account, have had tickers placed in their barns and have so arranged their farm work that they will not be interrupted during business hours, but may keep a close and undisturbed watch on the tape as it registers the ups and downs of commerce as manipulated by the speculators.

Any attempt to thus further enslave the Nebraska farmer should be at once met with a sturdy resistance. Down with the elevator! Long live the bucket shop! No farm can be fertile without one. Perish the cause that would deprive the tiller of the soil of his bucket shop quotations and thus despoil him of the rightful reward of his arduous toil.

General Grosvenor of Ohio says he does not expect an extra session of congress. He does not say whether he still retains the presidential commission as the official political weather prophet. President McKinley is the only man who can say authoritatively whether there will be an extra session, but the chances are that he has not even given the subject serious consideration. The president has not been in the habit of figuring on crossing bridges before he gets to them.

Former Insurance Commissioner Price is highly indignant at being evaded by inference classed with the lobbyists who have been securing the introduction of holdup bills in the legislature. Any one at all familiar with the record of Mr. Price while insurance commissioner and examiner will readily acquit him of any such motive. In all of his dealings Mr. Price is strictly a philanthropist and takes no thought of his own interests.

The arrest of merchants in Manila on the charge of aiding the insurgents is likely to have an important bearing on the ending of the rebellion in the Philippines. As long as the rebels are able to secure supplies their ability to keep up the disturbance is increased, and if the cabal which has been engaged in the traffic for the sake of personal gain can be broken peace is more likely to be restored at an early date.

The charges of looting in China have now been made specific as to time, place and some of the parties engaged in the affair. Now that the charges are more than generalities the representatives of the powers can hardly afford to ignore them or refuse to punish the guilty if the charges are sustained. Demands for reparation from China are a mockery of justice if the Christian looters are to go free.

An Outwaded Joke. Miss Mary Condit Smith having received \$10,000 for her daily recital of the siege of Peking, disposes of the old joke about the foolishness of woman keeping a diary.

An Unnecessary Combine. A sleeping car combine talked of. This look like an unnecessary bit of enterprise, as the public now has about as few rights in a sleeping car, between the porter and the upper berth, as it can get along with and use the institution at all.

Gratitude in a New Light. "I see," said a man addressing Charles Spurgeon as he sat coming out of his church, "that you have forgotten me, sir, and yet you once did me the greatest service that one man can do to another."

Imagination Overworked. The Spanish idea of the freedom of the press, which conflicts with the interpretation of free utterance by General MacArthur, would not be tolerated in America. It appears to consist of the constant publication of any right which the editor's imagination with regard to the villainess, depravity and dishonesty of the persons attacked. Once in a while something of this description is printed in an American city, but it is unusual and impossible to continue as a regular thing. The Spanish idea that any reason for editorial assault permits the unlimited working of the vivid Latin imagination has given the United States military commanders much trouble in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines.

An Incident of Civilization. Among the other blessings which the forces of civilization have conferred upon the people that sat in darkness in China is now to be reckoned fame. The Chinese who escaped the reforming zeal of the great missionary power and fled for their lives into the interior, leaving all their possessions behind, are now reported starving. War, pestilence and famine, the old companionship, complete the civilizing work,

and the doors of China will be open because there will be none to close them. This is the purport of the news that comes from the interior provinces, with details too horrible for repetition. The diplomatists regard the situation as encouraging, and it will force the court to return to Peking, where they can more easily get around it and compel its acceptance of their terms. What population remains about Peking has been completely terrorized, and, with the large army at the disposal of the diplomatic peace makers, they have no doubt of their ability to squeeze out of the Chinese anything they have left.

Andrew Carnegie's Don'ts. Andrew Carnegie, who is now in a position where he can give unlimited advice without offense, has given out a number of "don'ts" for young men. Dr. Carnegie says:

Do not go to cheap plays. Do not fall in love unless the woman is twenty or thirty years older than you. Do not drink. Do not gamble. Do not play foot ball. Do not associate with young men who tell stories they would not care to have their mothers hear, because it will do them no good. Mr. Carnegie gives reasons for all these "don'ts" and they are fairly good ones. Still, there are some things that "the young person" would do well to settle for himself. It may be impossible to find a woman twenty or thirty years older than you are who cares to marry you. In that case it would be as well to content yourself with one of your own age.

There is another "don't" that might be useful. Don't goss about advice.

IS IT WORTH WHILE? Costly Naval Ships that Become Back Numbers. Little White.

Congress has authorized five new battleships, and the naval bill now before that body proposes two more with a displacement of 15,000 tons each. These are to be the largest and most powerful fighting machines afloat proposed to arm each of these floating steel-clad forts with batteries of four 12-inch, four 8-inch and sixteen 6-inch steel guns, any of which shall be capable of penetrating the armor of any war ship now in service or afloat.

If this new fleet, with its irresistible batteries, can do what the naval experts claim for it, there will be a choice lot of war ships that will be candidates for the junk pile very shortly. It is hardly likely that naval power will care to repeat the experience of Spain in pitting a navy just a little out of date and behind the age against one that possesses all the latest improvements in shooting and defensive power. Our own navy will consist largely of out-dated vessels, according to this standard, and we shall be compelled to build new and more powerful war vessels continuously.

It is in this feature of naval construction which makes thoughtful people wonder if it is worth while to spend untold millions at the best will be of no use within a very few years after they have been completed. It is not conceivable that the strongest war ships have ever devised, let alone built and launched, as yet. This constant outlay for war vessels that will be superseded by those still more powerful and destructive leads to the hope at least that some better way of fitting national defense than that of fighting them to a decisive issue will be adopted before the entire universe is in the sheriff's hands to be sold for debt.

POSSIBILITIES OF IRRIGATION. What a Little Money Would Do in Reclaiming the Arid West. Baltimore Star.

Advocates of irrigation in the reclamation of arid lands by irrigation have concluded that if the government can spend \$60,000,000 a year on river and harbor improvements it ought to be able to help irrigation projects to a moderate extent. Hence they are making a determined effort to secure an appropriation of \$100,000 for the construction of a storage reservoir in Wyoming. Bills have also been introduced in both houses of congress with a view to furthering irrigation interests and laying the foundation for a general scheme of improvements. The arid region embraces parts of Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, which, it is claimed, will bring under irrigation will be capable of supporting millions of people. Private capital has already been invested in reclaiming small portions of the arid territory. Those who have studied the subject are enthusiastic over the possibilities of irrigation. eminent army engineers have testified that a thorough system of storage reservoirs in the arid region would diminish the size and destructive force of the annual floods in the Mississippi. Probably as our population increases and more become dependent on irrigation, the reclamation of the arid regions of the United States will receive the attention which it deserves. The subject is one of practical interest in the west and was regarded of sufficient political importance to give the endorsement of both of the great national conventions last year. Representative Mondell of Wyoming, one of the champions of national aid for the reclamation of arid lands, estimates that \$50,000,000 judiciously expended would provide means for irrigating and reclaiming millions of acres of land now barren and useless.

AN EXPLODED SCANDAL. Baseless Criticism of President McKinley and Justice Harlan. New York Tribune.

The utterly absurd charges against the president for the appointment of James S. Harlan to be attorney general of Porto Rico are completely demolished by the New York Herald's account of the speech made by Justice Harlan at the loyal legion dinner, in which he said: "The fathers of the republic never intended or desired that congress should have authority or any power over any part of the surface of the earth free from the letter and the spirit of the constitution." That declaration is not unreasonably considered to indicate that Justice Harlan will vote against the administration when it comes to the decision of the Porto Rican and Philippine cases. To those who have had any knowledge of Justice Harlan's private views on the subject for the last year this will not be a surprising revelation. He has long been privately understood to hold that opinion. In view of that fact, doubtless perfectly known to the president, the idea that the justice's son was sent to Porto Rico as a bribe to the father is seen to be a figment of the imagination. It is preposterous to suppose that anything but the merits of Mr. James S. Harlan, which are universally conceded, caused his selection for a difficult post of a general who the president has taken the most extreme care to fill with worthy men. The suspicious and the malicious were quick to scent a scandal, but when they see that there is no expectation, and never was among the informed, that Justice Harlan would vote in the court for the administration's view, they must agree that their charges were groundless. By the way, we wonder if the anti-imperialists, who were a few days ago clamoring for the withdrawal of Justice Harlan from the constitutional court, would be so ready to support the administration's view, that their charges were groundless. By the way, we wonder if the anti-imperialists, who were a few days ago clamoring for the withdrawal of Justice Harlan from the constitutional court, would be so ready to support the administration's view, that their charges were groundless.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Somerville Journal: The wise minister never prays for rain unless he sees that the barometer has begun to fall. Chicago Post: Dancing and cinci has been forbidden by a Methodist pastor of Clinton, Ind. It will be curious to note to what extent his congregation has learned the great lesson of obedience. Washington Star: A Reading (Pa.) clergyman has resigned his pulpit because he believes his salary of \$1,500 a year is more than the church can afford to pay. More of the circumstances should be learned before deciding whether he is a philanthropist or a financial expert.

Indianapolis Journal: Bishop Thoburn thinks it is all right for small nations to be absorbed by larger ones, as it does away with so many evils. The logical outcome of the bishop's argument is that the Creator made a mistake in permitting such a diversity of peoples, and has now called upon the stronger nations to help Him correct it. The bishop seems firmly planted on the "might makes right" proposition.

Boston Globe: The Ashtabula minister who has been advertising his religious views in the newspapers, as the department stores advertise their bargain sales, in large display advertisements, set in black type, has reason to be gratified by the result of his experiment. His first advertisement would the size of his congregation. His second ad increased the average attendance 150 on Sunday evening to 400, which crowded the church.

Chicago Chronicle: Of all men a clergyman should be slowest to denounce the failings and weaknesses of humanity. Least of all should he expect a minister of the gospel to make charges which he is not prepared to substantiate. What shall we think, then, of a preacher who charges trusted public employes with drunkenness and when asked for evidence skulks behind a plea that his charges are a matter of secret meeting and were not intended for publication? Is not this very like conduct which, in a layman, would be called sneaking, treacherous and cowardly?

HOW MUCH HAD HE GIVEN AWAY? That Question Will Supplement "How Much Did He Leave?" Philadelphia Press.

When a rich man dies the first question that springs to the lips of those who know his life is, "How much did he leave?" And the general public that was only acquainted with him as one of the men of colossal fortune will wait with feverish anxiety for the publication of his will, so as to add up the ciphers and units and determine by the product how many of the heirs and beneficiaries are to divide among themselves.

The latest instance of the kind occurred in connection with the recent death of Philip D. Armour of Chicago. Mr. Armour was one of the most successful gatherers of money that this country of great fortunes has known. His wealth was estimated when he was alive all the way from \$5,000,000 to \$50,000,000. This left a wide margin for conjecture, which was not definitely answered by the reading of the will. And when it was announced that the estate was appraised at \$15,000,000 there were many sighs of satisfaction and nods with the exclamation, "I told you so."

But while nearly every one was interested in knowing how much Mr. Armour left, few, if any, asked: "How much had he given away?" And yet the figures published by the Chicago newspapers show that Mr. Armour gave away more during his lifetime than he left behind at his death. Carefully prepared tables prove that his gifts were considerably more than double his devised estate. To the Armour Institute and Armour mission he gave about \$4,500,000 to other public institutions and charities, \$2,500,000 to relatives, friends and faithful employees, about \$25,000,000, and in other ways, \$2,000,000, making a total of \$35,000,000 disposed of during his lifetime. Had he hoarded his wealth it is estimated that it would have amounted at his death to \$50,000,000 at least. But it was less than a third that sum.

In view of these facts and the growing disposition of rich men to give away large fortunes during their lifetime, it will not be surprising if the question, "How much have I given away?" is changed to "How much had he given away?" One of the richest men of the times has declared that it is a "disgrace for a man to die rich." All rich men are following Mr. Carnegie's wise thought, but enough are doing so that gifts are numerous and generous enough to prove that it is fast becoming more honorable to a man to be known by what he has given away during his lifetime than by what he leaves at his death.

COMMUNITY OF OWNERSHIP. Significance of the Consolidation of the Overland Lines. Philadelphia Times.

Application of the principle of "community of ownership" has now brought the Union and the Southern Pacific railways into such relations as are expected to promote the complete and economical development of the transcontinental system. The process which is gradually bringing the whole of the vast railway network of the country under a common direction is one of the most interesting and important movements of the time. While an element of speculation enters into it, it is essentially a natural evolution, and is working itself out under wider laws than those of any man's invention, and it will prove beneficial or mischievous in proportion as the directing minds are themselves controlled by an intelligent regard for actual conditions.

What is gradually coming about is very much nearer to the dreams of the socialists than is usually recognized. It is bringing the railways and other groups of corporations under centralized control, and it is to operate them all in harmony. But the men who exercise the control are designated by natural selection, as the men having the necessary capacity, instead of being artificially selected by some unimagined process that theories never have suggested. The more obvious difference is that these men get more than their share of the profits, which theoretically should be for the common benefit. But it is a mistake to suppose that the syndicates that consolidate corporations operate altogether with their own money. They represent the accumulated capital of many thousands of investors, so that community of ownership is a practical matter of giving an interest in all the corporations of its class. This is quite in the direction of that public ownership that has been dreamed about.

It is plain that as far as this is a natural evolution it will work itself out to beneficial results only if it is allowed to work itself naturally and for the common benefit. Railway consolidation, for example, should result, and it more so, in better service, as well as more economical operation, that is more than could certainly be predicated of public ownership. But inequalities of service, unjust discriminations, individual or local, and especially the massing of a few fortunes in speculative profit, are not benefits, but wrongs. These are the things that make such great consolidations dangerous to public policy, and lead to the demand for public regulation, which is itself a danger, because of its uncertainties.

Thus the whole trend of corporate management at this time is bringing the subject constantly into closer and more important relations with the whole social organization. It is really the most important phase of all contemporary development and a man must have great confidence in his own prophetic powers who believes he can clearly see the outcome.

BLASTS FROM RAM'S HORN.

We do not have to be blind in order to see eye to eye. The choir may be a means of grace in training to patience. God will not deliver from evil him who deliberately walks into it. He that deals fairly with his neighbor does not have to flee from him. Men are ever ready to amend the gospel and then to put the amendment first. Conscience will never reconcile man to God, it simply shows him what he is. The great question is not, are you ready to die, but are you ready to live again? You cannot estimate the sunshine of heaven by the signs of a prayer meeting. There is one place where gold has no value, that is where the streets are paved with it. He who will not listen to the teachings of failure shall never hear the voice of success.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. The Kansas National guard now admits women, regardless of age or previous condition. Those early morning forays in Tophia show that Mother Nature loves a chop for breakfast. If the newspaper pictures of Mrs. Nation are true to life her antipathy for mirrors is accounted for. The nearest parallel to Verdi's musical writing in his old age is that of Auber, who lived to be 89 and wrote an opera after his 83rd birthday. Senator Stewart of Nevada has never been shaved. His beard, the most luxuriant in the senate, began to sprout when he was 16 years old; he is now 75. Colonel Waterston candidly admits he never went against a high ball. The colonel is one of the elegant gentlemen of the old school who revere the straight simplicity of the fathers. Mr. Kaneke, a graduate of Harvard of the class of '83, who came over in 1890 to receive the degree of doctor of laws from his alma mater, has been doctor of laws by the mikado and appointed minister of justice in the cabinet of Japan. The king of Siam rides an American bicycle of the latest model and several of his ministers are also expert wheelmen. Not long ago a bicycle club, of which the minister of the interior is president, had a grand illuminated turnout. The native Filipino has the faculty of imitation highly developed. Hence his action in refraining from taking city offices is inexplicable. It is quite evident they require considerable training before they reach the American standard. Timothy T. Sawyer, president of the Bunker Hill National bank of Charlestown, Mass., is the oldest bank president in New England. He has been connected with the institution over fifty years and has been its president since 1887. He is now 84, but intends to all his duties at the bank. In a speech he delivered recently Governor Stanley of Kansas said he came to that state "forty years ago today and slept on the grass under the blue sky by the side of John Burleigh." Some unbelievers began to overhaul records and they found John Burleigh had been dead two years when Mr. Stanley came to Kansas. Among the extraordinary requests received by congressmen few are more extravagant than one that came in Representative Joy's mail the other day. It was from a woman in Pennsylvania, saying she was much in need of a piano and asking him to send one—an upright preferred. Mr. Joy replied, saying he was sorry the woman did not live in this country. "You do live in Mr. Burleigh's district, however, and if you write to him he will be sure to send you a piano, as he has a large stock on hand for just such a purpose. I advise you to ask for the best."

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES. Harper's Bazar: "What are you doing for that baby?" "I am simply avoiding all the advice my friends are giving me."

Detroit Free Press: "Didn't your wife sympathize with you when you had the flu?" "No; she had it herself."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "I notice that Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt says that women will still under the heel of man." "Say, wonder what kind of man Mr. Carrie Catt can be?"

Philadelphia Bulletin: Nipp—My wife worried all last week for fear I should die. "Tuck—Were you sick?" "Nipp—No; but my life insurance policy ran out and it was several days before I got it renewed."

Detroit Journal: Wife (dressed for the opera)—For goodness sake, why did you get all those flowers? "Husband—Thought it would be well for you, dear, to have something to cover you."

Philadelphia Press: They had quarreled. He snapped out "Adieu! I am done, mine forever, with you!" "Phah-he said, don't cut me!" "So he left them and there she set up a fearful 'Dien-hei!'"

Chicago Tribune: "By the way," asked the stranger, "are women permitted to practice in this country?" "Permitted," snorted the other man, who happened to be a retired saloon keeper from Kansas. "You can't keep 'em from doing it when they take a notion, begosh!"

Washington Star: "What did you think of that farewell speech of mine?" said the orator. "Well," answered Miss Cayenne, "to be candid, I couldn't quite make up my mind whether it ought to be referred to as a swan song, or as merely one of the customary cackles."

Somerville Journal: Would-be-Sultor—I desire to pay my addresses to your comely daughter, sir. Have you any objections? "Erught—My youngest daughter is already engaged, but I have another daughter just as good."

Philadelphia Times: "What do you mean by having a woman's letter in your coat pocket?" "It was a letter from my mother. For a moment I was under the impression that a shade of relief chased it away."

"For my word, Maria, I forgot to mail it for you."

Detroit Journal: The beautiful girl shivered when I told her that I had never truly loved her. "But your billings and cooings," she protested, "did they mean nothing?" "Oh, bless you, those were only josh billings," quipped she. "I laughed with the utmost violence, but all that I could see that I had broken her heart."

ECHO SONG. Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Who can say where Echo dwells? In some remote, far-off nook, Where the white owl sits and blinks Or in deep sequestered dells, Where the fox hangs its bells, Echo dwells. Echo!

Phantom of the crystal air, Daughter of sweet mystery! Here is one who needs thee: Let the sun to his rays be dim, Myrtle brings her for thy hair, Heed his prayer, Echo!

Echo, lift thy drowsy head, And repeat each charmed word. Thou must needs have overhead Yesterday ere, now, red, red, red, Down the valley fled, Words unsaid, Echo!

Breathe the vows she since denies! She hath broken every vow; What she would she would not now; Whisper, while I shut my eyes, Those sweet lies, Echo!