

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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TOO SERIOUS TO BE IGNORED. For some incomprehensible reason Treasurer Steuffer does not seem to realize the seriousness of the charge that the school fund entrusted to his safekeeping has been manipulated for private gain in recent bond-buying deals. Mr. Steuffer evidently thinks he may safely rest content with the explanation that explains nothing, while Governor Savage has given it out that he proposes to take no step whatever with reference to the school fund mismanagement until someone prepares and prefers specific sworn charges. As an example not too remote to have lost its force it may be pertinent to recall the action of a former governor of Nebraska on the development of conditions not entirely dissimilar, involving the misuse of official power for private gain, not directly on the part of a state officer, but on the part of one of his subordinates and appointees. In the records of the executive office may be found the following special message signed by the last populist governor: Executive Chamber, Feb. 14, 1899.—To the Members of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Legislature of Nebraska: Gentlemen—I would respectfully call your attention to the most grave and serious charge made in the public prints, and especially to an article appearing in The Omaha Bee and State Journal at this date, which implicates the executive department of the state in gross irregularities in the management of the affairs of the auditor's office. The charges are made specific in the articles above referred to and to the department of insurance in the office. These charges are of so serious a character that I deem it my duty to ask your candid and careful consideration of them. They came to my attention last week as rumors, but of such grave import that I considered it necessary to appoint a committee consisting of Hon. W. F. Porter, secretary of state; Hon. C. J. Smyth, attorney general; and Hon. J. V. Wolfe, commissioner of public lands and buildings, to investigate and report to me. What were the rumors at that time have become specific charges now by the publication of the articles above referred to. If these charges are not true a very great wrong is being done to the elected representative of the people in the auditor's office and Auditor Cornell should be given the fullest opportunity to vindicate his honor. If they are true prompt action should be taken to stamp out official corruption. In which event, whatever your wisdom may dictate, either to supplement the action already taken by me or to pursue a special line of investigation of your own, in the interest of good government, I beg to assure you that whatever assistance this department can render you will be cheerfully given. W. A. FOYSTER, Governor.

unit of local option shall be reduced. The theory on which local option rests is the principle of municipal home rule—that when each community decides for itself what regulation shall be applied to the liquor traffic, that decision will have a local sentiment to support it that will insure its reasonable enforcement. The enactment of prohibition legislation uniform in operation throughout the state has been followed only by disastrous failure, while the local option of each separate community has given generally satisfactory results. While in most of our cities and towns the license system is meeting with most signal success, it is possible that further differentiation of the option idea might work improvement in liquor traffic conditions in a great city like New York. But the very fact that the present proposition comes from men ranged on the temperance side is conclusive that no revival of the prohibition propaganda as formerly carried on is to be apprehended.

ANOTHER EXPOSITION. The South Carolina Interstate and West Indian exposition will be formally opened tomorrow and according to late reports it is in better condition for public inspection than most of the other expositions were at the time of opening. It is also said to exceed in scope both the Atlanta and Nashville fairs, while as to beauty of architecture and surroundings it ranks with the best exhibitions that have been held. When it is remembered that the city of Charleston has a population of only about 60,000, less than half of which are whites, the energy and enterprise shown in organizing and carrying through the exposition is certainly commendable and ought to be rewarded by the liberal support of the southern people. There are many northern exhibitors, particularly eastern manufacturers, and several states have buildings in connection with the exposition. The West Indian exhibits will probably be the chief attraction.

"Expositions are the timekeepers of progress," said President McKinley at Buffalo. "They record the world's advancement. They stimulate the energy, enterprise and intellect of the people." The exposition at Charleston is not so pretentious as was the Pan-American at Buffalo, but it may prove more successful financially. At all events the city in which it is held will doubtless be materially benefited.

EASTERN SENTIMENT FOR IRRIGATION. Eastern sentiment favorable to the reclamation of the arid lands of the west has been growing during the past year or two and there will be less opposition than hitherto in congress from that section to government aid in promoting irrigation. No more forcible presentation of this question has been made than in a recent editorial of the Brooklyn Eagle. That paper urges the primary importance of the redemption of our own territory. It is feasible to convert the arid region to fertility and thereby add hundreds of thousands of square miles to our habitable domain. Pointing out that the arid lands have an abundance of the raw material of fertility the Eagle declares that it would be absurd in this people not to use them.

"There are in our west," says that paper, "500,000,000 acres of land which are yet in the public gift. Wonderful results have been obtained through individual efforts to reclaim the desert and when one considers what might be done by federal management, imagination is startled and gladdened by the possibilities. It is an empire that lies fallow beyond the mountains, an empire wherein millions who now overcrowd our cities may live in the comfort and freedom that are denied in stony towns. To make homes for these millions it will be necessary that the government prepare the way. The cost and the labor are too vast for personal undertaking. Forests must be planted to insure constancy in water supply; reservoirs must be created by damming valleys, in order that the supply may be ample in volume; canals and drains must be dug across the country for miles, with gates and dikes and other such appliances, and there must be uniformity in laws respecting rights to use of water. Most of the arid land is in what have recently become states, but by the same authority or co-operation whereby forest reserves and national parks, Indian and military reservations and experimental stations have been secured for public uses, the needed ponds and canals could be created." The Eagle says that apart from the immediate gain of this conversion of the American desert to settlers and to the industries which they will create is the profit of the whole country by the increase in its output and the guaranty of permanence in improved climatic conditions.

That paper concludes its very strong discussion of the subject as follows: "With the arid regions of the west under control and in process of reclamation, we shall be able to offer a home to every lacking citizen and add immensely to our human resources. We shall, moreover, be doing that which it is a providence of this republic to do, and that is to show to other nations the way to a larger wealth, a larger health and a manlier state. A patriot, a man of genius, a man of sanely audacious prevision, a man of eastern culture and of western experience is president of the United States. He could signalize his administration in no grander and in no more excellent way than by identifying it with the beginnings of the great work and of the great duty of reclaiming the west." It is very gratifying to the people of the west to find that in the east this great question of reclaiming the arid lands is beginning to be understood and its importance justly estimated. Such utterances as that of the Brooklyn Eagle, showing a complete comprehension and adequate appreciation of the subject, cannot fail to exert an enlightening influence in its section and materially aid in promoting the work which means so much not alone for the west but for the entire country. Pres-

dent Roosevelt has assured those who have conferred with him regarding reclamation of the arid regions that he is favorable to government action, so that the influence of the administration will support the practically unanimous demand of the west for legislation to promote irrigation. There appears to be most favorable promise of this demand being met by the present congress.

DEALING WITH ANARCHISM. It is expected that immediately after the assembling of congress bills will be introduced dealing with anarchism. There is a very general demand for some legislation looking to the suppression of anarchism and the disposition is to provide drastic methods for that purpose. It is a matter that has been pretty freely discussed by public men and by the press and it should receive careful and thoughtful consideration in congress, so that what is done will stand the test of constitutional authority and not deny any right guaranteed by the constitution.

Among the contributions to the discussion of this matter is a recent address by the solicitor general of the United States, John K. Richards, which has attracted a good deal of attention and approving comment. Premising that the president ought to be protected by the law of the United States, which no one will question, Mr. Richards declared that authority to do this is clear. He said that "Every right secured by the constitution may be protected by congress and there is no higher right under the constitution, no right whose free exercise is more vital to the constitution, than the right of 'faithfully executing the office of president of the United States.'" He expressed the opinion that a murderous assault upon the president, whether successful or unsuccessful, should be punishable by death. He did not regard anarchism as political in nature, because it does not seek to change or revolutionize governments, but to destroy all government.

"Anarchy is the absence of government—a condition where there is neither law nor authority and the modern doctrine of anarchism seeks to bring about anarchy by acts of terrorism." He therefore thought that the constitutional guaranty of the freedom of speech does not stand in the way of suppressing the pernicious propaganda of anarchism. Mr. Richards said it is unnecessary to amend the constitution in order to obtain the power to suppress anarchism. The assemblage of anarchists and the preaching of their doctrines cannot be punished as treason, for to constitute treason there must be an actual levying of war; but acts directed at the life of the government, said the solicitor general, are punishable at the discretion of congress, although they do not amount to treason under the constitution. Mr. Richards urged that a policy of repression should be tried and that the time for doing so has come. "Anarchists are insurgents against civilization," he declared, "would be assassins of society, enemies of the human race. By the concurrent action of civilized nations they ought to be placed under the ban of universal law. The red flag of anarchy should be driven from the land as the black flags of piracy have been driven from the sea." There are, however, obstacles in the way of accomplishing this which it will be very difficult to overcome, if not indeed impossible without doing violence to our political system.

Have you examined the Christmas numbers just issued for the different high-class American monthly magazines? As examples of the finest product of the illustrator and bookmaker they are not to be surpassed, to say nothing of the steadily improving character of their contents. The monthly magazine has come to be the regular literary pabulum of an ever-increasing circle who supplement their daily newspaper reading with the periodical publications and it is certainly gratifying to know that the publishers are alive to their duty to elevate popular magazine tastes. That such handsome and expensive holiday numbers can be issued at so reasonable a price is equally a marvel with the perfection of the mechanical devices that facilitate their production.

Omaha will certainly welcome the extension of the Elkhorn road to the northwest. For years a vast amount of trade has gone to other cities which naturally belonged to Omaha simply for lack of direct railroad communication. While the proposed new line will not entirely remedy the trouble, it will give entrance to a large portion of the formerly prohibited field. Omaha wants all that naturally belongs to it, and while it has been slow coming in this case, it is welcome when it comes.

The court-martial of Colonel Meade of the Marine corps has uncovered some of the peculiar etiquette of that department of the service. One of the officers seriously objected because the colonel observed the size of the drinks the witness took. As it is evident from the testimony there was plenty to go around, the conduct of the colonel was certainly reprehensible in the extreme.

The republican congressional caucus has unanimously renominated all the officers of the last congress. Correspondents at Washington have been busy for some time telling about the fight that would be made in the caucus on account of dissatisfaction with the distribution of minor offices. Now that this is settled they will be forced to turn over on the other side and change pipes.

The last of the United States senators, Heiford of Idaho, who had populist leanings has announced that he will go into the democratic caucus and advises the populists of his state to get in under the same tent. Evidently M. C. Harrington knew what he was talking about two years ago when he said: "Only one year more of fusion."

The United States government has assured the Cubans that the officers of this country now serving in Cuba will not be permitted to interfere in any way with the coming election. It is

not strange, perhaps, that the Cubans should be over-sensitive on this point and inclined to be suspicious, in view of the stories repeatedly printed by the opposition press in the United States, but there is certainly no warrant in fact for such apprehensions. This country will be only too glad to have the Cuban affair settled as early as possible and settled by the Cubans themselves.

The report that the prince of Wales would challenge for the American's cup proves to have been only a dream. If he should decide to make the try the people of the United States would guarantee his royal highness a royal old time, but beg leave to remind him that under no circumstances can we spare the antiquated mug.

An American insurance company is preparing to erect a handsome office building in the heart of Paris with the latest American methods of construction. The Parisians, not so obstructive as the Londoners, have not as yet entered objection.

Progressive Genius. Washington Star. In order to escape going to jail a New Jersey man married a woman from whom he stole. A woman sometimes strikes on a fine way of making the punishment fit the crime.

The Strenuous Life. Saturday Evening Post. With free rural mail delivery, cheap telephone service and regular deliveries from the stores, there is a prospect that the American farmer may soon be suffering from a lack of exercise.

Cause and Effect. Brooklyn Eagle. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union rejoices in the enactment of a law in 1,000 of our towns, and immediately afterward deprecates the increase in juvenile depravity, which latter does not speak well for the effectiveness of a curfew.

A Model Auduboner. Chicago Tribune. The principal distributor of the Iowa Audubon society's pamphlets and leaflets in Nebraska is a milliner, who does a large and successful business and never puts a dead bird or any part of a dead bird on her hats and bonnets. Blessings upon her!

Samplers of Clever Fighting. Philadelphia Ledger. There is still enough of war in the Philippines to give the American troops there splendid chances for the display of valor and strategy. The exploit by a handful of men scaled an almost perpendicular cliff and surprised the garrison of a fortress, which was believed to be impregnable, was one seldom surpassed by the best fighters of any age or country.

Conscience Yields Cash. Chicago News. The pentent person who has just sent \$500 to the national "conscience fund" probably feels that he has very neatly, if not fully, atoned for his wrongful act, whatever it may have been. Presumably it takes a considerable degree of remorse to bring a man to the point of parting with such a sum voluntarily. The "conscience fund" is a good thing in its way. May it grow until there are no longer any guilty consciences from which it can receive contributions.

Relics of History's Dawn. New York Tribune. The recent uncovering of the shrine not far from the banks of the Tiber, where the Romans paid tribute to the memory of the founder of the Eternal City, the twin suckling of the she wolf, may possibly inspire hope that the bridge so valiantly in "the brave days of old." Some of these figures that loom large in the twilight of history may have been real men after all.

Market Value of Fame. Collier's Weekly. Anyone who is interested in the market value of fame may like to know that at a sale of photographs bearing the autographs of the subjects, Mr. Watterson, the editor, brought \$7.50 and General Miles \$3.00. Three dollars and a half appeared to be the military valuation, for pictures of General Sherman and General Sheridan each sold for that sum. The photograph of the late William Florence, the actor, sold for \$4.50, that of Senator Blackburn for \$4, and that of George Washington for \$3.50, a photograph of "Buffalo Bill" for \$1.50 and one of General Boulanger for 25 cents, or 5 cents less than the current quotation of the "brave general's" fame.

PROSPERITY AND THE HOLIDAYS. Saturday Evening Post: The wise shopper seizes opportunity and takes the Christmas present by the forelock. Cleveland Leader: Record-breaking holiday trade may be expected by merchants who prepare for it on a scale commensurate with the times and the prospects, and then let the public know what they have done. The conditions are ripe for better business than has ever been done in Christmas gifts. St. Louis Republic: The prospect for the holiday trade of 1901 is of unusual brightness. The great retail mart of the country are preparing to meet an exceptional demand with stocks of fine completeness and attractiveness. In St. Louis, one of the most prosperous of American cities, the approaching holiday season will be a gain time, indeed. A happy and well-to-do community cannot do better than to thus commemorate a year of good luck and brightening fortunes. The area of prosperity is widened by the very increase of holiday shopping due to prosperity. Philadelphia Ledger: The marked activity in nearly all lines of business in evidence throughout the year will culminate in an exceedingly prosperous holiday season. Good wages, steady employment, busy industries, an expanding commerce, an encouraging outlook for the next year, assure lively buying in the marts of holiday trade. This is foreshadowed by the unusual number of early holiday buyers. Holiday trade is the unerring barometer of prosperity, of the purchasing power of the people. Fortunately, the general conditions of trade and industry at this time give the vast majority of our people the opportunity and the resources to discharge the duty and to enjoy the pleasure of buying Christmas gifts. At no other period are the offices of friendship and kinship so pleasantly conspicuous as they are during the holidays. It is the season of generous impulses. Then, if at any time, the fountains of benevolence flow. Should the holiday trade prove to be exceptionally meager it would be properly regarded as a bad omen for the mercantile interests. The present worthy inclination to remember one's friends in the appropriate gift in happily accompanied this year with the general ability to do so in varying degrees of liberality.

Always Something New to Show You. A GIFT that is always acceptable is stationery. We can give you more stationery information, and illustrate our talk by showing you more varieties of artistic papers, than anybody in the city. We can show you the finest of correspondence papers in pretty gift boxes, and at prices that will talk so hard you will have to buy if you look. A nice box for 25c, as fine a one as you wish up to \$5.00 or more. If you wish a special die made and the paper stamped we can do it for you. But you must remember Xmas is almost here and those kind of orders must be placed early. McGeath Stationery Co. Booksellers, 1308 Farnam St.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT. Saturday Evening Post: By the time the conscientious preacher gets through teaching and preaching the goodness of god and the badness of evil he has to work overtime if he wants to wade into the higher criticism. Kansas City Journal: A New Jersey preacher is charged with having neglected his ministerial duties in order to write novels. We don't know the merits of this particular case, but a good novel is worth more than a poor sermon any day in the week. Atlanta Constitution: We are strongly grounded in the belief that the cause of good morals has little to gain from carrying the pulpit into politics, and that the best way of purifying the tone of society and of accomplishing needed reforms is by applying the teachings of the Savior to individual lives through the ordinary ministrations of the gospel. Chicago Chronicle: The new Protestant Episcopal bishop of the Philippines seems to be under the impression that he is to dispute with Governor Taft and General Clarke for the control of that interesting government. In a public address announcing his acceptance of the appointment he said: "I go to the Philippines to stand for righteousness in civil life, to make civil service what it should be there, to promote Christian education and to foster the true elements of American civilization." As Taft and Chaffee are already working on the lines thus laid down, or pretend to be, there are likely to be several new and different kinds of trouble in Manila as soon as the good bishop hangs out his sign. PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. Strange to say, the new member of Parliament from Galway does not wear galways. Former President Cleveland is evidently out of the woods. Only one doctor signs his health bulletins. A final appraisal of the estate of the late President McKinley shows a total of about \$200,000. The real estate is estimated to be worth between \$60,000 and \$65,000 and personal property \$125,800. An allowance of \$8,000 a year has been made to Mrs. McKinley. Portland is going into the exposition business in a business way. The people realize that it costs money and are going down into their jeans for the wherewith. Subscription papers started on their rounds last Monday and returned at the close of the day with nearly \$200,000 subscribed. The expectation was that the limit of \$400,000 would be subscribed in three days. Mrs. Nation denounced her husband as a "hell-bound hypocrite." Whereupon the meek Mr. Nation took a divorce count, hatched and severed the connection, thus sulching the action to the grievance. According to a decision of the general board of appraisers, sausage is not sausage for duty purposes when out of the skin. Dealers in the robust what-is-it are now at liberty to appraise the government by omitting the hide. A final appraisal of the estate of the late President McKinley shows a total of about \$200,000. The real estate is estimated to be worth between \$60,000 and \$65,000 and personal property \$125,800. An allowance of \$8,000 a year has been made to Mrs. McKinley. Portland is going into the exposition business in a business way. The people realize that it costs money and are going down into their jeans for the wherewith. Subscription papers started on their rounds last Monday and returned at the close of the day with nearly \$200,000 subscribed. The expectation was that the limit of \$400,000 would be subscribed in three days. MEMORIES. Arthur Ketchum in Ainslie's Magazine. Out of the Night we came, and we shall go Back to our Night, that is the most we know. But clinging to us are thin mystic things, Vague dreams and visions, dim remembered things. And whippers low, that tell us we have known Strange vanished glories and some bright ones. Some dim and faded, yet well each pilgrim heart. And seldom does Life's captive force apart The ancient chain, and stand his moment free. Yet, some night wind blown off the surging sea, The wings of music beating on his bars, Some glimpse of twilight's first great stars, The April thrust that pipes across the cold, The solemn fields with autumn sunlight gold. And that sad pleasure that is known as Love. These whippers of the things we know not speak. Vaguely do these at some rare moment Of our old glories that we madly seek. Ere on our dream the doors of Being close, And, while we look, the golden moment go!

Are You Prepared Yet? In the way of an overcoat. We have had so many disappointed customers that have kept waiting for one of "our make" of coats, that we feel almost ashamed to ask the question. But our New York factory has been working over time and have now caught up and we are amply able now to satisfy the demand. There is no doubt but that the swagger overcoat is the season's favorite, and we have plenty of them to show you in all of the popular cloths with and without yoke, and we have them in the right style—collars and shoulders that fit—and the long, loose, graceful skirt— \$12.50 to \$42.50 "No Clothing Fits Like Ours." Browning, King & Co. Exclusive Clothiers and Furnishers. R. S. Wilcox, Manager.