

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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When anyone speaks of the crop damage from excessive rains, tell him to forget it.

King Edward must be well on the road to restored health. He has already started in at speaking.

With all Omaha men as their grand exalted ruler, the Elks will have to turn toward Omaha when they want to face their Mecca.

Omaha bids welcome to the Philippine veterans no less cordially than Council Bluffs, her sister city on the opposite side of the Missouri.

How fortunate that the Jacksonians and the County Democracy took care not to select the same day for their picnic demonstrations.

Among other prospective afflictions, we are promised a coal famine before very long. There is consolation, however, in that as yet there is no ice famine here.

Prince Choo's visit to New York seems to have opened his eyes to the huge strides taken by American civilization, without regard to the fact that his eyes are cut on the film.

Under the new police regime, a patrolman must keep his temper or take a lay-off, but a police commissioner may lose his temper on the slightest provocation, especially if his name is Brough.

Texas populists have put up a state ticket all their own. In states like Texas, where democrats have things about as they want them, the invitation to fuse is not pressed very urgently.

Just wait till the council and school board men of the base ball diamond get even with one another for the base insinuations that have been tossed from council chamber to board rooms.

Our Dave has not yet told what he did with the \$200 paid him by the Greater America exposition to promote its interests in congressional legislation. How much of it does anyone imagine got past Mercer?

Should the grocers and the butchers merge their local organizations for the purpose of co-operation and suppression of the deadbeat, people who pay their grocery and butcher bills will be relieved from paying for the fellows who don't.

Canada ought to become a popular place for fugitive American forgers with the example of Gaynor and Greene as an open invitation to escape justice. The railroads running to Canada should arrange special excursion services all the year round.

The erection of a monument in Kansas to the memory of Coronado, who is credited with having made the first expedition to the transmississippi country nearly four centuries ago, reminds us that at one time this was all in the enemy's country.

Mr. Mercer has now been in Omaha more than two weeks, visiting and shaking hands, but up to date he has not seen fit to answer a single question which his peerless prodigy excused himself from answering during the memorable debate because he is not a mind reader.

The sovereign coins of the Louisiana Purchase exposition will contain the heads of Thomas Jefferson and William McKinley—one the president who negotiated the treaty by which the Louisiana territory was acquired and the other the president who proclaimed the exposition. The exposition will exemplify the progress made between the time of Jefferson and the time of McKinley.

FLUNDERING THE INDIANS.

The middlemen in the neighborhood of the Winnebago and Omaha Indian reservations, who are banded together to despoil the Indians in the leasing and purchasing of reservation lands, still continue at their rascally work. The recent exposure of the conspiracy by the competing bidders who presented themselves at the sale of Omaha Indian lands at O'Neill were bulldozed and bought off and the lands were knocked down to members of the ring at a ridiculously low price does not seem to deter the gang from fresh attempts to rob the Indians. Although the fraudulent sale at O'Neill is sure to be annulled by the secretary of the interior, the gang of favored speculators are making a fresh onslaught on the Winnebagoes in the sale of lands belonging to the heirs of deceased members of that tribe.

The high-handed methods by which these deprivations on the helpless and ignorant Winnebagoes are being conducted, by and with the connivance of Agent Mathewson, are a matter of public notoriety. Instead of protecting the Indians by placing them in direct communication with intending purchasers, the middlemen are given every advantage and allowed to intervene between the Indians and the purchasers, so as to make enormous profits with comparatively no outlay and no risk. Two cases in point have just been reported, one of these by an old resident of this city, who makes the following statement:

About the 6th of August I went to the Winnebago reservation and called on the agency for information as to the Indian lands that are to be sold under the recent order authorizing the sale of deceased Indians' lands. The agent, Mathewson, was away at Pender, and his clerk introduced me to an Indian interpreter, who, he said, would, on the payment of \$100 for his services, show me a tract of land that was for sale.

I accepted the proposition and was told by the Indian that I could get the quarter section of land, 160 acres, for between \$2,000 and \$3,000. When we reached the farm we found one of the speculators with another Indian on the ground, while the owner, an Indian woman, was absent. We returned to the agency and when the Indian woman reached there I was informed that the land was sold. Upon inquiry, I learned that the land had been bargained for on the same day by one of the middlemen. I then made an offer of \$4,000 for the tract, but they hustled the woman into the agent's office and had her sign the deed with a crossmark for \$2,800 or \$3,000.

One of the Indians spoke up and said: "This is a shame. This man is willing to give \$3,000 more than she is getting," but the man at the office said it was all done. The same afternoon the middleman who bought the land offered to re-sell it to me at \$30 per acre, which would be \$4,800, but I declined to take it at that price.

The second is even a more flagrant case of downright rascality. One of the tenants living on the Winnebago reservation, who had improved an eighty-acre tract and erected several buildings thereon, was anxious to buy the land. Upon inquiry at the agent's office he was told that a middleman, whose name we suppress, had bought it for \$1,300. The tenant thereupon purchased the land from the middleman for \$3,000 spot cash, although the Indian owner only received \$1,300 for it. To cover up the infamous transaction, the middleman compelled the tenant purchaser to sign an affidavit that he did not pay any bonus to anybody in making the purchase.

Strange that such rascality can be perpetrated with impunity under the very eyes of the Indian agent. Fortunately, the secretary of the interior has the last word to say, and we feel sure that he will set aside all these deals, as he is certain to set aside the conspiracy by which the lands worth \$30 to \$40 an acre were knocked down at \$18 an acre at the O'Neill land sale.

THE BRITISH COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The result of the conference of colonial premiers at London is not altogether what Mr. Chamberlain, secretary for the colonies had planned and hoped for. The chief thing sought by that statesman, which he has been working to promote since he came to his present position, was a preferential tariff arrangement in the nature of an imperial solvency and this was not attained. It is true that the plan of the colonial secretary was not absolutely rejected, but there was a general indispotion on the part of the premiers to commit themselves to a policy which, while it would doubtless be highly advantageous to British manufacturers, might not prove beneficial to the colonies.

Therefore the matter was left for future arrangements between the mother country and each individual colony, with the understanding that such arrangements would follow the general lines of the Canadian tariff. Canada arranges her own tariff, giving preferential duties at present 35 per cent, on British goods. This discrimination in favor of the manufacturers of England has not proved of any material advantage to them. Their trade with Canada has not grown to any great extent, while that of the United States has steadily increased. Some of the Canadian statesmen are in favor of enlarging the discrimination in a new reciprocity treaty cannot be negotiated with this country and it is possible that the Canadian tariff will be raised on American goods. Canada, however, is in a different position from other British colonies and a tariff policy which it should find expedient and advantageous might not be favorable to Australia and other colonies. Hence each will make its own arrangements with the mother country, instead of all being bound by a common understanding.

Neither was the plan of maintaining colonial forces for imperial defense altogether successful. Canada and Australia would not accept it, going only so far as to agree to keep their local forces efficient, relying on volunteers in case of imperial need. These colonies are not willing to burden themselves with expensive military establishments and in this they are certainly wise. It was demonstrated in the South African war that the imperial government

can rely upon the colonies for soldiers and there is no reason to doubt that it may do so in future.

The fact that Mr. Chamberlain did not wholly succeed in effecting what he desired through the colonial conference evidences no lack of devotion to the mother country. The imperial sentiment is strong in the colonies, perhaps stronger in some of them than ever before, and certainly the British empire as a whole was never more solid and firmly united than now. Whatever external difficulties there may be to menace its peace, there are no internal troubles to cause its rulers apprehension.

DEFENSE OF THE ARMY.

In his address to the Society of the Army of the Philippines its president, General Hale, said that one of the reasons for maintaining the organization in defense of the United States army, "which has been made a chopping block by hostile politicians in their attacks on the administration." "Let us stand together," he said, "for the honor of our commander-in-chief, the president, the army and navy, and the flag." The men who served in the Philippines and bravely and patriotically performed their duty to the government are right in resenting the indiscriminate calumnies that have been directed against the army by democratic politicians and in doing so they are certain to have the approbation of all fair-minded citizens.

The men composing the Society of the Army of the Philippines know that the sweeping charge of cruel and barbarous acts made against the American soldiers in the Philippines is false. They know that such acts were exceptional and that the rule was to treat the enemy humanely. They know that the army observed the rules and usages of civilized warfare, although these were utterly disregarded by the treacherous foe, who committed unspeakable cruelties and barbarities upon our soldiers. The politicians who for a partisan purpose denounce and traduce the army can have no influence with right-thinking people in the face of testimony of men who attested their patriotism in fighting to uphold American sovereignty in those distant islands. The word of any one of them outweighs all the diatribes of the defamers of the gallant Philippine army.

THE VENEZUELAN REVOLUTION.

The overthrow of the Castro government in Venezuela appears certain and is perhaps now an accomplished fact, the signal success of the revolutionists at Barcelona having probably decided the fate of the government. The revolution has been in progress for a considerable time, or nearly ever since Castro attained power, and its success ought to result to the benefit of the country, which has made little progress under the present government. The rule of Castro has been corrupt and oppressive and his administration has been dominated by the clerical element, which among other things has been persistently hostile to public education. It was to overthrow this power in the affairs of the republic that chiefly prompted the revolution.

Whether or not the success of the revolution would very much improve conditions, however, is problematical. In the division of the spoils new troubles may arise, for Venezuela is not unlike other South American countries in respect to the character of its politicians. It is never certain that peace and order will be maintained for any length of time. Meanwhile the revolutionists are preparing troubles for themselves as they are preparing for the future. In the event of their organizing a government, if it be true that they are responsible for the pillaging of the consulates at Barcelona. This is a pretty serious matter, for which some sort of reparation will assuredly be required. The situation is giving some work to our naval officers in that quarter and American interests are being looked after as carefully as possible.

The railroad tax bureau has fired several bullets in succession at the taxpayers of Nebraska, in order to make invidious comparisons between tax-shirking money lenders and people with heavy deposit books and the tax-shirking railroads. But how will these comparisons excuse the state board of assessors from omitting the assessment of railroad franchises from the assessment of the tangible property of those corporations?

Congressman Mercer's application to become an associate member of the Tri-City Press club has been favorably reported and accepted. Now it will be in order for our Dave to make application to join John M. Baldwin on the staff of President Burt's forthcoming daily Railroad Gazette, which is to be a better newspaper and more widely circulated than any other daily that has ever been published in Omaha.

There is no danger that Nebraska will be left out entirely of the benefits accruing under the new irrigation law. The men in charge of the experimental irrigation works desire above all to give a successful demonstration of the possibilities of irrigation, and the most promising points for experimental reservoirs will have to take in some of the semi-arid section of Nebraska and adjoining states.

An anarchist who had commissioned "himself to assassinate the king of Italy" committed suicide while on his way across the ocean from this country. If other anarchist assassins would only follow in his footsteps by killing themselves instead of their intended victims they would relieve us of much trouble in the enforcement of our anti-anarchist legislation.

William F. Gurley proclaimed from the platform some weeks ago that Omaha needs Mercer a great deal worse than Mercer needs Omaha. If this is true, why should not Omaha claim Mercer as perpetual representative

at the national capital, without the aid of the Union Pacific railroad constabulary?

Many of One Mind. Chicago Tribune.

Editor Bryan thinks the "money question is still important." It is, Mr. Bryan; it is. Always collect from your subscribers in advance.

At a Safe Distance. Brooklyn Eagle.

Manhattan is to have a baby show and the homeliest young one is to win a prize. The committee that makes the decision will announce it from Omaha, and will thereupon immediately adjourn sine die.

Case of the Bush. Springfield Republican.

The road of emigration to the United States is not confined wholly to southern and eastern Europe. Every American-bound ship now leaving Scandinavian ports is crowded with emigrants. The cause is said to be "the unprecedented hard times" now prevailing throughout Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and the more stringent conscription laws of Sweden.

Giving Old Muddy the Shake. Minneapolis Journal.

The Old Muddy is about to be left alone to its snags, its decreasing volume of water and its pastime of changing its channel. One man has had about made up his mind to abandon the old Muddy to its inevitable streams. If it really be true that the river is really feeding the thousands of arctic wells that do such good service in South Dakota it is more valuable in that capacity than it ever could be as an artery of commerce.

Sugar Beet Crop in Nebraska. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A farmer residing in northwestern Nebraska writes that the yield of sugar beets in his neighborhood this year will be from fifteen to twenty-five tons an acre, according to the weather, and that the contract price, delivered to a ton, is \$1.50. He adds that there are ten-acre patches of land whose crop of sugar beets this season will pay for 100 acres of good land. The address of this farmer is William Coleman, McCook, Neb., and as he has been a tiller of the soil fifty years, he is not likely to err in his estimate of the value of a crop.

The New Associate Justice. Kansas City Star.

Judge Holmes, whom President Roosevelt has nominated for the supreme court, has the reputation of being one of the fairest, soundest and most learned judges in the United States. The decisions of the Massachusetts supreme court over which he has presided are recognized as good law. A "Holmes opinion" carries immense weight. His reputation is more than national. The late Lord Russell, while lord chief justice of England, once referred to Judge Holmes' book on "The Common Law" as the classic work on that subject. The president's choice for Justice of the supreme bench of the United States will be regarded as admirable by lawyers throughout the United States. To people generally the appointment has the additional sentimental interest of recognizing the worth of the son of the great and popular "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table."

Street Car Advertising Prohibited. Leslie's Weekly.

The leading newspapers of the country will be interested in the fact that the contract for the construction of the Brooklyn part of the great rapid transit system of New York distinctly provides that no part of Brooklyn (that is, the city) shall be used for advertising purposes. The alert Brooklyn newspapers have seen to it that their interests in this matter were carefully safeguarded. They have shown greater diligence and common sense than the newspapers of the borough of Manhattan and many other parts of the city. The Troy Times, in its thoughtful comment on this fact, says—and we commend its utterance to the attention of the press generally—that "this prohibition is significant because it indicates the growth of the competition for the proper advertising space in the newspapers and not on street billboards or the walls of conveyances. The opinion is gaining force that there is essential injustice in permitting owners of franchises for the purpose of public conveyance to turn their vehicles or routes into advertising agencies. It is to be hoped that the city fathers will take prompt action toward the publishers of periodicals who have contributed much time and effort and to the use of which they are legitimately entitled."

WHEELER ON ROBERTS. General Joe Appeals the Military Feats of General Boha. Washington Post.

It would have been worth while to attend the Anglo-American Pilgrims' banquet in London if General Wheeler had been there. General Joe Wheeler eclogize Lord Roberts as the "greatest of modern Christian soldiers." To be sure, the event was attractive in many other ways. Such great Englishmen as Lord Kinnaird and Lord Charles Bouverf and Lord Roberts and such eminent Americans as Mr. Henry White, Mr. Josiah Quincy and General Joe Wheeler were there to be looked at. The banquet hall was, of course, a thing of beauty and the food both solid and abundant. But the spectacle of Lord Roberts as the greatest living military commander, with General Wheeler as the only complete appraiser in that line, was a spectacle to witness which a good man might well have traveled half across the world.

We confess that, until General Wheeler's declaration appeared, we had entertained a somewhat different estimate of Lord Roberts. His brief campaign in South Africa—and that was his first and only experience with an enemy in trousers—impressed us rather painfully than otherwise. As we saw the matter, Lord Roberts simply concentrated an immense army and marched through a thinly populated country in a great hurry, hastened fondly back to England with the utmost expedition and left the situation absolutely unchanged save for the capture of Cronje and his force. Of the many things he might have done to give the world a different impression, he did not do one. When Kitchener reached Pretoria, as the successor of Lord Roberts he found the situation as ugly and the difficulties as formidable as though Lord Roberts had never left London at all. He found, we must admit, his predecessor's solemn pronouncements of British victory, but he could see none of its fruits. As for occupation of Boer territory, there was none, nor did he ever achieve it in any proper sense of the term until the Boers, a few weeks ago, impelled by some reason which is still mysterious, abandoned the contest and laid down their arms. Lord Roberts did not lighten Kitchener's task. He merely intensified and complicated it. He did about as much toward subduing the Boers as General Wheeler did toward checking the operations of Sherman and Thomas in our own little campaign of forty years ago.

However, we shall now amend our views with reference to Lord Roberts and his military achievements in South Africa. General Wheeler is a hero of large experience—a soldier whose brilliant record in two consecutive wars lends weight to his

A GROWING QUESTION.

Buffalo Express: If the anthracite mine owners could be imbued with a little of the good sense and spirit of fairness expressed by Senator Hanna the strike could be ended in a day. The question is not to be able to answer the senator's question, namely, if the bituminous operators find it profitable and satisfactory to recognize the union, why should not the anthracite operators?

Cleveland Leader: A majority of the people of the United States could not at present favor such an experiment in socialism as the purchase and control by the government of the coal mines and the railroads, but if the methods of the hard coal trust are copied by other large employers of labor it will not take long to create a public sentiment which could be counted upon to favor a momentous change in governmental policy. Arrogant and obsolete employers of labor are doing much to establish conditions that will plague them in the future.

Indianapolis News: The anthracite mines of Pennsylvania have been shut down now for three months. It is not probable that owners will not consent to a reasonable conference with the miners and the submission of any points in dispute to disinterested arbitrators. The whole country is half to suffer because of the stubbornness, obstinacy and unreason of a half dozen men that by unilateral combination have succeeded in gaining an absolute monopoly of the anthracite field. It seems to us that Pennsylvania ought to be doing something more than preserving order by the use of the militia. The civil power of the state ought to be trying to get into the game. It is monstrous that any half dozen men should be able to paralyze the industries of the country, increase the living expenses of millions of people and subject the state to vast unnecessary expenditure to maintain order and security.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Philadelphia Journalism is having an upset with the consolidation of the Ledger and Times as a penny paper.

Senator T. C. Platt is running a Sunday school on the plaza of the Oriental hotel at New York beach. The attendance is not large, but the proceedings are interesting.

Milwaukee finds that the creation of municipal garbage is a very costly luxury. About \$10,000 a month goes up with the smoke of the crematory.

In recognition of his efforts for the development of French art in America Henry Dunwoon of New York has been made a member of the Legion of Honor by the French academy.

Kentucky is wounded in its pride because Judge Pennington, candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, said Senator Quay is a bigger man than Clay or Webster ever thought of being.

Most any old place in the middle west can now substantiate its claims as a summer resort. Even Indiana may do so without being suspected of oversteering the market for historical fiction.

A man and a boy, a team of horses, a wagon and forty ten-quart cans of nitroglycerine rolled out of Bradford, Pa., a few days ago, bound for a magazine. A hole in the ground eight feet deep by twenty feet across marked the spot where the cart was to be exploded.

The gallant aviator, Lord Dunsford, who relieved Ladymania and is now about to become head of the Canadian militia, is not in favor of the present system of garrisoning colonies with regiments from the United Kingdom. He would have each colony raise its own troops and look after its own fortifications.

There is not yet in Portland any monument to William Pitt Fessenden, long United States senator from Maine and secretary of the treasury under President Lincoln. Mr. Fessenden was born in Portland in 1815, and his services in South Africa, obtaining mention in dispatches. He was private secretary to Mr. Brodick in 1895 and is now assistant private secretary.

DANGERS OF INFLATION. National Banks. Chicago Tribune.

The comptroller of the currency finds cause for satisfaction in the excellent condition of the national banks as revealed by the reports made to him last month. The increases which he finds in most of the items of the consolidated bank statement are "congratulatory with the universal reports of the prosperous condition of business and the increase in its volume all over the country." The comptroller, while mentioning the more gratifying features of the statement, does not fail to mention one fact which is not altogether gratifying to him. It is the continuing increase in loans. The increase of \$28,000,000 over the statement of July, 1901, and of \$48,000,000 since the statement of April 30 last. The comptroller admits that the increase is based in part on a solid growth of values, but "there must also be some inflation," says he, "and there is danger of some of this in the direction."

Warnings of this kind often have been given in the past and seldom have been heeded. Few were willing to believe that there had been inflation until the bubble burst. Probably the hint of the comptroller will not lead to any taking in of sails. Comfort may be derived from the reflection that while there doubtless is some inflation now there is not so much proportionately as there has been in past prosperous seasons. The country does get wiser as it gets older and it does not speculate so wildly and so much beyond its resources as it did at an earlier day. It is customary for the men who suffer from such panic or revulsion which follows on the heels of the speculative excesses begotten by prosperity to look on that era of panic or depression as the worst of their lives ever knew. In reality the "hard times" periods of the last third of a century have not been so crushing as those of the earlier years of the last century. The country has much more capital than it had then and a little more common sense.

A reaction is likely to follow this period of prosperity, of the rapid creation of over-capitalization and of credit inflation, but it will not be so serious a reaction as those of other years. Judging from the present flourishing condition of the iron and steel industry there is no immediate danger of industrial depression. Nevertheless it is well to take heed of the suggestions of the comptroller and shun inflation.

DETS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. A fine bunch of old barnacles have been piled loose from the payroll of the pension bureau. They loved their work and the pay attached to it, and they loved boss Little more. Force of habit and official lethargy made them think their lapses were for the good of the service. When, however, the new commissioner, fresh from prohibition Kansas, found them boozing and smoking during working hours, a warning signal was hoisted: "If you like your job, forsake the bottle." The old boys scoffed at the signal and proceeded to irrigate their wretched vigor. Then the commissioner's wrath rose to the emergency and a large bunch of boozers were turned out into the cold world, and no one was allowed to come back. One result of the bounce is the absence of olive and lemon peel odors in the bureau.

Consider the job given the boozers, the commissioner served notice on his clerks that they must pay their legitimate bills or seek employment elsewhere. Boozing and beating will soon be among the lost arts of the bureau.

The much-coveted medal of honor bestowed on officers and enlisted men of the army for exceptional acts of personal heroism is a five-pointed star of bronze, tipped with trefoil, each point containing a crown, a laurel wreath and a sword. America, personified as Minerva, stands with her left hand resting on the scales, while with her right, in which she holds a shield, emblemizes with the American arms, she repulses Discord, represented by two snakes. The whole is suspended by a trophy of two crossed cannons, balls and a sword surmounted by the American eagle.

J. R. Page of the New York government assay office and F. W. Brodick of the Mint bureau in Washington during the last month have counted more than \$25,000,000 in loose change which Uncle Sam has stored in New Orleans mints. Every coin passed through the hands of one or the other of these expert tellers, and carefully tally was kept. Among the other coins were 15,000 standard silver dollars, \$5,000,000 in gold coins, 100,000 silver dollars, and \$4,000,000 worth of silver bullion. These two men went to New Orleans recently and at once began the task of accounting for every dollar in money represented in the accounts of the superintendent of the money manufactory. They have in fact just completed the work.

The noted dynamite crusher Yonvuir, which used to cough thunderbolts around Santiago some years ago, is about to be consigned to the naval junk pile. The whole of the intricate machinery of the unique craft are to be taken out, discarded as useless and sold, while the hull of the vessel is put to some other purpose. The vessel is now out of commission. It has been in our midst for some time, since the Spanish war, during which it participated in the blockade of Santiago, and did work of more or less controversy, the Pneumatic Gun Carriage and Power company, who own the patents for the dynamite guns, claiming that the craft worked havoc with the coast defenses of the most important harbors and hesitated to say that the vessel was worthless in that campaign. The Yonvuir represents an outlay of \$350,000.

A statement issued by the Civil Service commission gives some interesting data of special interest to people anxious to get into Uncle Sam's pay roll. According to the statement the total number of positions at present in the executive civil service is about 225,316. Of this number 111,140 are classified competitive, 11,766 classified excepted and 102,410 unclassified. In the department proper and the independent agencies in Washington there are about 20,078 positions, of which 16,423 are classified competitive positions, 288 classified excepted, 391 unclassified presidential, and 2,775 below classification. About 216,248 positions are branches of the service outside of Washington, of which 94,717 are classified competitive, 11,450 classified excepted, 1,111 unclassified presidential and 108,960 below classification.

The 766 officials of the consular service are not included in the above figures. The reason assigned for excepting positions from the operation of the rules is that the duties pertaining to them are of such character that the qualifications of persons for appointment cannot be adequately tested in the manner and by the examinations provided by the civil service rules.

ABANDONING THE MISSOURI. A Champion of the Big Muddy Files a Vexatious Claim. Chicago Record-Herald.

The abandonment of the Missouri river is said to be foreshadowed in the report of Captain Chittenden, United States engineer, an abstract of which leaves the argument for abandonment in a state of confusion. We are told that while business on the stream is going to the demitton bows, it reached a volume of 65,395,000 pounds and 11,248 head of cattle above Sioux City in 1901, as against 5,664,000 pounds in 1878.

This change may not prove that Edward Maguire, engineer in 1878, was right when he prophesied that the shippers would prefer the river to the railroads, but it certainly shows that there has been a growth, even if it is only for transportation between railroads, and it therefore absolutely still have its value. This would consist in the menace of competition, which need not be in full operation to be effective. All that is necessary is that it should be immediately possible, and that fact is not to be denied. The difficulty of the Missouri is magnified the more impolitic it would seem to be for the government to leave it to itself.

That river commerce is impossible without snagging is hardly a point for abandonment, but it shows that the same thing that snagging has been so successful that only four boats have been wrecked since 1899 by running into snags. The supreme question is, how do the cost of this river and the resulting benefits compare with those of other streams and harbors that are into the river and harbor bills which congress is so ready to pass? The benefits we have indicated in the reference to competition; the cost of the upper Missouri since 1899 has been but \$778,144, which strikes us as being relatively small when it is considered that the river is one of the longest in the world. And though it is very shallow in parts and very unreliable, it has a national importance unlike many streams which are remembered in the apocryphal saying that a waterway from its shores of internal improvements—and then continue the appropriation.

Tearful Teller Emulates Barkis. New York Tribune.

Senator Teller of Colorado has long baffled the directory makers who have tried to fix his status and affiliations in party politics. But his campaign for re-election in 1902 and the other day in Colorado he was forced to make this rather ingenuously declaration: "I have carefully considered the question as to whether I ought to be a candidate or not, and I have decided to leave that question to the democracy of Colorado."

WHAT THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR.

Significance of the Intended Capitalization of the Rock Island Road. United States Investor.

The Rock Island scheme involves an increase of 170 per cent in the capitalization of the system without increasing the assets. If the present year may be regarded as an index of what future years are going to be, the company will not be able to stand the capitalization that is to be placed upon it. But it is hard to convince most persons that the present year is a safe criterion of future years. Existing conditions as regards railroad earnings are viewed by conservative minds as highly exceptional. Railroad earnings may conceivably never decline to what they were prior to 1893, but that they will remain permanently at the present level may seriously be questioned. In the event of a marked recession—such as might occur any time—the Rock Island might, in order to turn a sufficient amount over to the New Jersey company to justify the stock market aims of the promoters of the conversion plan, be obliged to resort to measures relating to raising and transportation facilities which would be repugnant to the communities which in the past have claimed jurisdiction of the system. There are, in fact, many ways in which the policy of the operating company might, by the interposition of the new foreign corporation, conceivably be modified to the detriment of the local communities. In short, the whole policy of the promoters of the conversion plan is obviously to eliminate to the fullest extent possible all local jurisdiction. It seems to us, therefore, that the Rock Island end furnishes an immense amount of national charters. The deal is essentially a barefaced one in its details. The capitalization is expanded from \$75,000,000 to \$202,000,000, but the plan is so arranged that only a little more than \$38,000,000 of preferred stock will control the whole property. This amount is to be used by the promoters to recap themselves for the expense they have been put to in working up the deal, by selling their bonds and common stock. As someone has remarked, they can thus eat their cake and still have it. This feature, together with such features as the proposal to alter the charter wherever the promoter can use the company's funds in speculating in the company's securities (thereby securing the means to perpetuate their private hold on the property) and the provision rendering it impossible for the stockholders to have access to the books of the company, stamp the whole project as one of the most unique pieces of frontentry ever witnessed in connection with speculation in this country.

RUSH FOR OUR SHORES. Philanthropy and Prudence Exercised at the Landing Place. Leslie's Weekly.

No other country in the world admits so many immigrants as does the United States and in no other land have such elaborate arrangements been made to receive and care for the foreigners who flock to its shores. During the year ended June 30, 1902, a total of 841,763 immigrants landed in this great republic. This is the record figure for one year, and it exceeds that of the preceding year by 160,855. For the year ended June 30, 1901, as many as 493,380 immigrants landed at this port alone, or more than the aggregate for the whole union in the previous twelve months. The immigration of such vast numbers the immigrants would fare badly were it not that when their arrival they become for the time being wards of Uncle Sam. They are treated with a sort of paternal solicitude and no effort is spared by the faithful among the immigration officials to protect them at every step of their migration station of the union, situated on Ellis Island in New York harbor.

FLASHES OF FUN. Chicago Tribune: "Why, I thought you were in Europe!" "No; I'm touring the United States this time."

"What is the reason of that?" "Well, so many princes have been waiting to see me that I have had to leave the country to get something in this country worth seeing."

Philadelphia Press: "Of course," said the printer, "you'll want this booklet about your new plan, which will be ready in a few days." "Not much," replied Nutch with some heat, "but I don't want to have full-tens; no half-tens; no quarter-tens."

Washington Star: "The world owes me a living," said the dreamy-eyed person. "Even if the world owes me nothing, my friend, you must be too polite or too poor to get out and do it for what's coming to you."

Pittsburgh Chronicle: Fred—Why don't you send her some roses? "Send her roses?" "Yes, what's more I tell you, 'Red'—what's more I tell you, 'Red'—what's more I tell you, 'Red'—what's more I