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E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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1	32,280	17	30,820
2	31,120	18	30,610
3	31,470	19	30,880
4	31,060	20	30,780
5	31,040	21	28,700
6	31,820	22	30,600
7	28,600	23	30,860
8	30,960	24	30,990
9	30,900	25	30,250
10	30,950	26	30,830
11	30,960	27	30,870
12	30,970	28	28,865
13	30,940	29	30,790
14	28,320	30	32,820
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16	30,910		

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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, A. D. 1902. M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal) Notary Public.

No wonder the coal man usually carries a side line of ice.

Like the street car, the legislative bill hopper bears the sign, "Always room for one more."

If the tariff alone is responsible for the trusts, the coal trust ought to collapse forthwith. But will it?

If it is left to a vote of the Filipinos, Governor Taft will stay in the Philippines as long as the present form of governing the islands is maintained.

The railroad attorneys are protesting again against the assessment of railroad property for city taxation on the same basis as other property. That is what they are paid for.

Chief of Police Donahue draws the line at dealers in futures and options who call themselves "clairvoyants." The next thing he will be after the preachers and bucket shop men.

The legislatures of several states are just now engaged in doing their utmost to convince doubting people that the election of United States senators by direct vote has become an imperative necessity.

Apostle Reed Smoot has landed on the nomination for the United States senate from Utah with both feet. The other senators down at Washington may not like his company, but they will not be able to help themselves.

The action of the German Reichstag in adopting resolutions directed against the Standard Oil company is perhaps intended to be notice to Mr. Rockefeller to plant a little of his money in endowments for German universities.

The usual number of legislators who want to achieve notoriety by introducing freak bills are manifesting themselves in various legislatures now in session. Fortunately the freak bills seldom go beyond the introduction stage.

It is good to have the governor of Alabama denounce lynching in such vigorous terms in his message to the legislature, but it would be much better if the southern states would do more to repress the lynching habit by practice rather than preaching.

Judging by the number and variety of bills introduced at the very outset of the session, the people of Nebraska must be convinced that they have been governed very poorly indeed and that everything is out of kilter and needs mending very badly.

Real Estate exchange men say they are encouraged at the prospects of revenue legislation in accordance with their recommendations. But they must not let their encouragement make them neglectful. The only way to secure the legislation imperatively demanded is to keep everlastingly after it.

The management of the St. Louis exposition is losing no chance to make hay while the sun shines at the national live stock convention. The territory comprised in the states carved out of the Louisiana purchase constitutes the greatest live stock country of the world, and if the live stock exhibit at St. Louis does not outdo all others there will be great disappointment.

Delaware democrats offer to fuse with the anti-Addicks republicans on an agreement to elect a republican to represent Delaware in the United States senate for the long term in return for the election of a democrat for the short term. Another epistle from Colonel Bryan will be in order, showing this to be a plot of the money power to capture the Delaware democracy for the reorganizers. The fusion of Bryan democrats and populists in the west is all right, but any fusion of democrats and republicans in the east is all wrong.

THE CHARGE OF DERELICTION.

We have heretofore referred to the charge of dereliction made against the law officers of the government, chiefly on the part of democrats, in regard to enforcing the anti-trust law. In the United States senate on Wednesday Senator Tillman, who is a representative democrat at least of his section, renewed the charge, asserting that proof, pleadings and petitions had been presented to the attorney general "warning and begging him to protect the people against the impending danger, but he has sat quietly in his office and done nothing." If this be true then indeed, Attorney General Knox deserves unqualified condemnation, but there is no evidence adduced to sustain the charge and fair-minded men will not accept the bare and unsupported statement of the South Carolina senator, whose habit of reckless assertion is well known.

It is the view of some thoughtless persons that as soon as the coal situation became menacing to the public interest, or they received from some source a report setting forth the existence of a coal combination, the law officers of the government should have proceeded to cause the arrest of coal operators, railway managers and any other who might be implicated. For instance, a New York newspaper publisher sent to the attorney general a statement charging the existence of an illegal combination or conspiracy among railroads engaged in transporting and selling anthracite coal and proffering evidence in support of the charge. It was referred to the United States district attorney in New York with instructions to receive the evidence and report to the Department of Justice. This was the proper course, but because no suit has yet been brought the attorney general has been criticised for failure to perform his duty, though those who do this know nothing of the evidence and have no reason to suppose that the United States district attorney in New York and the officials of the Department of Justice are not prosecuting a necessary investigation.

Hasty action in a matter of this kind would be most impolitic and unwise. It was discussed a short time ago in the United States senate and Senator Spooner said that "Where a lawyer is bringing suit against men with unlimited capital, who have built around themselves, through the assistance of most skillful and able lawyers, every possible safeguard, he desires to thoroughly understand what he can do and to thoroughly explore the whole situation before he puts the matter into court. He wants to be reasonably certain, as a lawyer, that he can succeed." Senator Foraker of Ohio, an able lawyer, said in regard to testimony presented that the attorney general would not only want to examine it as to the fact, but he would want, if he thought there was testimony to be had that would support the charges, to examine other questions. He would not only look at it as to the sufficiency of testimony and as to its availability, but he would also have to consider jurisdictional questions.

The charge of dereliction against the attorney general of the United States has nothing to support it and we believe is wholly unwarranted. He is an able lawyer and a conscientious public official and there is not a reasonable doubt that he is faithfully performing his duty.

WILL REPORT THE TREATY.

The senate committee on foreign relations will report the Cuban reciprocity treaty, amended so as to guarantee that there shall not be a further reduction of the sugar duty, which is placed at 20 per cent, and providing for a 40 per cent reduction on American cattle exported to Cuba instead of 20 per cent. There will perhaps be no objection on the part of the Cuban government to the first amendment, but it may not be disposed to concede so large a reduction on our cattle. It is the expectation of the Cubans to develop cattle raising as an important industry of the island, which is practicable, so that it is quite probable they will view so large a reduction of the duty on cattle as likely to be unfavorable to the building up of their own industry.

However, this one amendment to the treaty will hardly prove an obstacle to its ratification by Cuba, since there is chance for a compromise. The prospect, therefore, is to be regarded as favorable for the early establishment of closer commercial relations between the United States and the young republic, with results which it is confidently expected will be mutually advantageous. There is talk of an effort on the part of some of the democrats of the senate to defeat ratification, by a resort to filibustering, but it is doubtful if a sufficient number of them can be induced to take this course to prevent ratification.

GROWING IMPATIENT.

The statement that the president is growing impatient at the delay in the canal negotiations with Colombia is not surprising. The vacillating course of that country in the matter has been well calculated to produce such a feeling or even one of irritation. At the outset the Colombian government manifested the most earnest desire to have the United States take the Panama canal and complete its construction. It professed a willingness to make any fair and reasonable concession which this government might require. But as soon as congress had expressed a preference for the Panama route, by the passage of the bill giving authority to the president to negotiate for it, the Colombian government experienced a change of feeling and the efforts to conclude negotiations upon terms which the United States can accept have been fruitless.

President Roosevelt is anxious to have the isthmian canal matter disposed of before the close of the recent congress and it is stated that if Colombia does not speedily come to terms he will negotiate a treaty with Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which could be done, it is understood, without delay. It is probable, therefore, that the question whether the United States shall build the Panama or the Nicaragua canal will be determined within the next three or four weeks. It would be a disappointment to a majority of our people interested in an isthmian canal if the Panama route should have to be abandoned, but our government cannot submit to any exactions or to conditions that would unduly limit its authority over the canal and the necessary contiguous territory.

It has been said that the attitude of Colombia is due to German influence, but the German Foreign office has taken the trouble to deny this statement, as obviously absurd as some others regarding German designs in this hemisphere.

THE THREE ESSENTIALS.

As the basic principle for the proposed compulsory municipal ownership bill, its godfather assures us three things are essential:

1. The enforcement of the right to purchase the plant.

2. Keeping the enterprise out of politics.

3. That none but honest and competent men be appointed as appraisers.

This is about as practical as William J. Bryan's proposition that the standard dollar should have the same purchasing power at all times and under all circumstances. It is an old adage that you can bring a horse to water, but you can't always make him drink. We have the right to acquire the water plant, but it is another matter to compel a community to exercise that right whether the conditions are favorable or unfavorable to it.

To keep the water works out of politics by conferring upon the governor the power to appoint the appraisement commission is to presume that governors have no political affiliations or political aspirations. Looking backward at governor-appointed nonpartisan police commissions, governor-appointed nonpartisan normal school boards and boards of charities, we discover names of very prominent politicians, and we find ourselves face to face with some of the most rotten deals in politics that have ever disgraced Nebraska.

But the most childlike and bland proposition is the assumption that we can create strictly honest and competent men by law. On that point we feel sure the Real Estate exchange committee to whom the compulsory purchase bill has been referred will have no difficulty in reaching positive conclusions. The mill to convert dogs into sausages was patented years ago, but the device to grind out honest men by passing them through the legislative hopper is yet to be discovered. If any man can improvise that kind of a mill his fortune is made.

PUBLISH THE INVENTORY.

At least once each year every well managed business house takes an inventory of its tangible property to enable it to make a correct balance sheet. The same business methods should be applied to public corporations. The taxpayers of Omaha, South Omaha and Douglas county, who severally and jointly constitute the business firm for whom the Board of County Commissioners, the respective mayors and city councils and school boards are the managers, have a right to demand that an inventory be taken at the beginning of each year of the tangible assets of the county, city and school district.

These exhibits of tangible property should be given the widest publicity through the press, so that the people may know periodically what materials and properties are held in trust by their public servants. For example: The people of Douglas county have a right to know how many grading machines, teams and tools the county owns. They ought to know how much furniture owned by the county is in the court house and how much at the county poor farm, the character and quantity of supplies the county carries in its storehouse and other institutions under direct control of the county.

The taxpayers of Omaha ought to know what machinery, engineering instruments, furniture and tools, etc., the city owns in the various departments, as well as the number of horses, fire engines, fire hose and other fire apparatus in the custody of the fire department, and what other chattel property the city may have on hand in each of the departments.

A like exhibit should be made by the respective school boards. The people have a right to know how many school books are now in use in the various public schools and how many in the High school library, what apparatus in the laboratory and what materials of every description subject to the control of the school board is on hand, and what quantity in the school board storehouse.

The taking of these inventories would impose considerable labor on the clerical force and custodians, but by rights that should be part of their duty.

The omnibus public building bills at Washington have suggested omnibus public building bills at Lincoln. Omnibus building bills are pernicious, demoralizing and dangerous. They foster extravagance and jobbery and become a source of legislative corruption indirectly by making members tie up to support measures and appropriations in conflict with their conscientious convictions simply because there is some pork in that barrel for their constituents.

Winston Churchill, the brilliant novelist, who happens to be a member of the New Hampshire legislature, wants a law enacted by his state that will compel the reading of the constitution of the United States and the constitution of New Hampshire in every public school once a year. This is just about as rational as would be the enactment of a law requiring children of all the kindergartens to be able to recite the Declaration of Independence by heart. It is doubtful whether 50 per cent of the members of American state legislatures, including those of New Hampshire and Nebraska, have ever read the whole constitution of the United States or that of their own state.

The Postoffice department has announced its determination to establish no more rural free delivery routes over roads that require the payment of turnpike tolls. Rural free delivery has exerted an important influence for the good roads movement and if it serves to hasten the abolition of the turnpike toll roads still remaining in different parts of the country it will be entitled to another credit mark. When it comes to giving up rural free delivery or giving up private toll roads, we may be sure that free delivery will have the preference if the people themselves are allowed to decide.

In order to placate competing candidates for the United States attorneyship, Nebraska is to be divided into two federal judicial districts, although there is scarcely business enough to keep one court grinding. A few years hence when another set of competitors enter the race for the district attorneyship congress will doubtless be asked to divide the state into four districts. No wonder hogs grow spontaneously on every bush in Nebraska.

Ex-Speaker Sears seems to be imbued with the strange idea that the state should try to clear up its debts before plunging headlong into additional expense for new state institutions and new buildings. Mr. Sears must be laboring under the delusion that the state's business should be run on the same business principles as a private business establishment.

A deadly blow is being struck at the long-haired, battle-scarred swashbuckler by a bill introduced in the lower house of the legislature proposing to impose a fine and imprisonment for carrying concealed weapons on second conviction. Gatling guns and navy revolvers as side arms are of course to be privileged.

Size of the Daily Squeeze.

Washington Post.

It is estimated that the coal-consuming public is now being done to the extent of $3,000,000 per day. Who is getting the money?

Another Foghorn Retired.

Springfield Republican.

General A. J. Warner of Ohio is another of the leaders in the free silver movement who finds in the greatly increased production of gold and the rising tendency in prices a present satisfaction of the essential demands of that movement. Silver remonetization, he says, is no longer an issue.

Beyond Reach of Change.

New York Sun.

The Hon. George Fred Williams of Dedham, Mass., has founded a party which he calls "The People's Rules." The rules are these: Initiative and referendum, public ownership of municipal utilities, restriction of "government by injunction." No matter how many new parties may be formed, Mr. Williams will continue to be the same old party.

Tribute to Governor Taft.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The demonstration made by the Filipinos in protest against the proposed retirement of Governor Taft is a flattering tribute to him as a man and to the United States as a colonial power. Our new colonial service has gone far to justify itself when natives so recently in insurrection rise up not to rebel against our rule, but to oppose the plan for the withdrawal of our governor. The incident is one that should reassure our anti-imperialists and reconcile them to the continued occupation of the Philippine islands.

Improving the Schools.

New York Tribune.

The common school system has been the boast of Americans, but enlightened teachers are waking up to the fact that our progress has not kept pace with our pride. We have been developing fads, but we have not been developing in proper measure excellence of teaching of the few things which would make the great body of boys and girls efficient and useful men and women in the spheres of life in which they will be placed. This is one of the most important questions which can face the state, and the governor will do a great service if he can indicate how the central authority can within reasonable limits of expense make our common schools more efficient instruments for the development of character and the training of children for practical life.

Expansion of American Capital.

Philadelphia Record.

American capital is not yet adequate for the country's industrial opportunities and needs, and a good deal of foreign capital will long be invested here. But in the last few years we have taken up a good part of our obligations to Europe, and the amount of American capital now seeking investment abroad is an important item in the world's finance. Consular reports have directed attention to the investment of $500,000,000 or more United States capital in Mexico, a large majority of whose railroads are controlled in this country, and to the imposing list of American investments in Canada. American capital is developing Cuba and our insular acquisitions, seeking gas works in Japan and Paris and contesting with itself for the control of London rapid transit.

Introduction of Fake Castles.

Springfield Republican.

Some of our millionaires, in building their houses, are bothered, no doubt, to find architectural styles which suit them. One thing, however, they ought never to do, and that is to build an imitation in whole or in part of some European castle dating back to the middle ages. Nothing could be more absurd in an architectural sense, than the importation of the castle style into America; for the castle was the special outgrowth of feudal conditions of warfare and it has no reason for existence today except as it may survive to tell its own history in the lands that developed it. But more than that. The introduction of fake castles into America, to emphasize the social importance of their millionaire builders is excruciatingly vulgar, abnormally snobbish and disgustingly alien to the air we breathe.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

The tax roll for 1903, just completed by the assessors, gives New York taxpayers the severest jolt experienced in a generation. Values have been boosted nearly 50 per cent. In round numbers, the increase in the real estate assessment is $1,436,000,000, while the personalty assessment is $936,000,000 higher than that of last year. Under the plan of assessment at full value taxpayers are assured that taxes will be reduced in proportion to the increased assessment, but, if newspaper comment reflects the sentiment of the town, very few taxpayers bank on the professions of the officials. The Sun in a double-leaded roar pronounces the assessment an attack on real property but little removed from confiscation.

The personal assessment rolls contain some interesting figures of the reputed value of the personal property of well known men. For instance, Andrew Carnegie's assessment of $5,000,000 is the highest on the rolls, and is just twice that of John D. Rockefeller. John Jacob Astor and Russell Sage come next with $2,000,000 each. Howard Gould is let off with $750,000, while the assessment of J. P. Morgan is placed at $600,000. Charles M. Schwab is on the rolls for $500,000, Reginald Vanderbilt for $350,000, August Belmont for a like amount and Cornelius Vanderbilt for $250,000.

Among the local politicians W. S. Devery is down for $50,000 and John F. Carroll for $100,000. Mayor Low is the wealthiest of the city officials, his assessment being $57,000. Richard Canfield's personal property is valued at $100,000. Among those not taxed by reason of having sworn off their taxes on the ground of being nonresidents are Richard Croker of Wantage, Hermann Oelrichs, William Waldorf Astor, George J. Gould and Elbridge T. Gerry.

The real estate assessments are also especially interesting this year, as they show presumably the full value of familiar properties. Conspicuous increases in this year's assessments are such as the Hotel Savoy, which is raised from $1,000,000 to $2,200,000; the Manhattan hotel, from $1,500,000 to $2,200,000; the New Netherlands, $1,000,000 to $2,200,000; the Herald building, $1,000,000 to $1,800,000, and the Hanover bank, $1,200,000 to $2,750,000.

The new Macy store is put down as worth $6,000,000. The Carnegie mansion and grounds are assessed at $2,000,000. The Astor house goes up from $2,000,000 to $3,000,000. The new Fuller building is valued at $2,500,000, and the new Stock exchange at $4,600,000. The Metropolitan club goes up from $950,000 to $1,500,000 and the Metropolitan Opera house from $1,455,000 to $2,165,000. Delmonico's is doubled and Sherry's increased 60 per cent.

The lessee of a New York hotel who thought he had earned enough to retire from business and enjoy his fortune in leisure recently had an offer for his rights in the business that he has built up. After a consultation with his attorneys he settled on $8,000,000 as a reasonable sum. There was no formal consent to sell for that amount, but that was the figure that seemed just after a hurried view of the situation. There came from the intending purchasers an intimation that they were willing to do business immediately on that basis. Luckily nothing definite was done until the lawyers set out to make a more thorough investigation as to the value of the property based on the income it yielded annually. On that basis the hotel was vastly more valuable than it had at first been considered. The proprietor's personal profit for the last eight years had averaged $1,000,000. In view of these profits, the price placed on the hotel was increased to a figure which it was quite impossible for the syndicate to pay. In view of the large amount he found himself to be earning annually, the proprietor was quite satisfied to remain in harness a few years longer.

A retail merchant of New York has had his lesson. He believed that he had a right to abuse his employes as the fit took him. He told a young woman to hand him a box of hosiery. She gave him the wrong box. He threw it at her and struck her on the side. Then he took a hammer and threatened to kill her with it. He struck her with his fist and shoved her against the wall. She sued for $2,000 damages. The jury gave it to her with less than ten minutes' consultation. It is said they would have given her a much larger sum if she had asked for it.

The honored name of President McKinley has been bestowed upon an institution which is to wage war on indigestion. The recently chartered McKinley Memorial hospital is for the treatment and cure of diseases of the digestive organs. Said one of the originators: "There is certainly a field white for the harvest. Diseases of the digestive organs are an American failing, and a systematic effort must be made to check the inroads of gastric troubles. It is desirable that scientific research should be directed in these channels."

INCREASE IN JUDGES SALARY.

Difference in the Measures Pending in Congress.

Philadelphia Press.

An increase in the salaries of United States judges ought to be made by congress, and there appears to be a strong probability of such action. The senate passed a bill making the salary of the chief justice of the United States $13,000 and that of each associate justice $12,500. The house judiciary committee agrees to that part of the bill, but cut down the salaries of circuit and district judges from $7,500 and $6,250 agreed to by the senate to $7,000 and $6,000, which would be an increase of $1,000 each over the present salaries. If the difference between the two houses does not defeat any legislation it will be fortunate. An increase is badly needed, and if it is only $1,000 that would be much better than the existing rates. The amount fixed by the senate for the circuit and district judges was not too much, but the cut made by the house committee is not very large.

The lord high chancellor of England receives $50,000 a year and the three lords of appeal and the master of the rolls $30,000 each. The lord chief justice receives a salary of $40,000, while various other judges, including the fourteen on the queen's bench, receive $25,000. Such salaries are not expected in this country, but the United States can well afford to pay reasonably well. A judge in New Jersey recently resigned because he could not live satisfactorily on a $9,000 salary, which is $4,000 more than is paid to the district judges of the United States. The judges of the supreme court in New York City receive $17,500 each and the judges of subordinate courts in that city receive twice as much as is paid to circuit judges of the United States.

No sensible person favors what might be called large salaries for United States judges, but the amount agreed upon in the senate bill is not large, but only sufficient to enable these judges to live in a respectable manner and leave something for their families when they die. The house of representatives ought to pass the senate bill, but an agreement even on the house bill will be a great improvement over the existing situation.

FIGURING ON 1904.

Democratic Calculations Put Through a Mangling Machine.

Philadelphia Press.

It is a far cry to the presidential election of 1904, but some democrats are figuring on the outlook and constructing tables of electoral votes showing how a democratic president might be elected. The following is one of these tables with the addition of the republican pluralities given in 1900 and 1902 in the states outside the south that must be carried to enable the democrats to obtain a majority in the electoral college:

States.	Rep. Pluralities. 1900.	1902.	Electoral Vote.
New York	143,606	8,803	39
New Jersey	56,899	**17,133	12
Connecticut	28,570	16,008	7
Indiana	16,479	36,264	15
Rhode Island	13,972	*7,738	4
Nevada	*2,498	*1,088	3
Maryland	12,941	7,508	8
Delaware	3,697	4,152	3
West Virginia	21,022	12,763	7
Total electoral vote			96
Add solid south			151
Necessary to a choice			249
			239
Majority			10

*Democratic. **1901 plurality.

It needs only a glance to show what a strained calculation this is. Only two of the states mentioned outside the south went democratic in 1902 and they were Rhode Island and Nevada, with a total electoral vote of only seven. The latter alone went democratic in 1900. The attempt to argue that because most of these states gave smaller republican pluralities in 1902 than they did in 1900 they are drifting toward the democratic party is to forget all previous premises. The same states gave smaller republican pluralities in 1898 than they did in 1896, but they all swung into line again in 1900.

In the table of states there is probably only one that is likely to go democratic in 1904, and that is Nevada, with three electoral votes. But, taking the table as it stands, the flimsy basis on which it is built is readily discernible. At the most it gives only ten democratic majority in the electoral college. The loss of Connecticut and Delaware, or of West Virginia and Nevada, would make a tie and throw the election into the house of representatives. Either New Jersey's or Indiana's vote would defeat the democratic candidate. In fact the construction of such a table reveals the weakness of the democratic outlook. An attempt to figure out a possible chance for the election of a democratic president in 1904 is like a child's house of cards. It falls to pieces at a touch.

SIGNIFICANT POINTERS.

Vast Improvements Projected by the Railroads.

Chicago Tribune.

The plans of some of the leading railroads of the country are fairly eloquent in their significance as bearing upon the industrial outlook for the present year and the continuance of the prosperity of the year just closed. During 1903 the New York Central management of the Boston & Albany railroad will spend $4,000,000 for grade crossings and general improvements. The New York Central also will expend about $25,000,000 upon the reconstruction of its terminal in New York City, and, included in this, will be the cost of installing electric instead of steam service within the city limits and suburbs. The Union and Southern Pacific companies will spend $40,000,000 in reducing grades, shortening lines and adding to their transportation facilities. The Pennsylvania company is to begin next month upon construction contracts amounting to $50,000,000, including the terminal in New York, the enlargement of buildings and yards in Pittsburg and the erection of the new union station in Washington.

The appropriation of this large sum of about $120,000,000 by four railroad companies alone, to which millions more must be added to completely represent the plans of all the railroad companies for the increase of their capacity to move the already congested accumulations of fuel, grain, lumber, iron and steel, and make ready to handle the product of this year, shows that not only they have confidence in the continuance of the prosperity which made last year such a noteworthy industrial one, but that the logic of the situation warrants them in these heavy outlays.

Expenditures upon so large a scale mean an increased consumption of material, an increased demand for labor, and, naturally, a largely increased distribution of wages. The last item means a higher standard of living. It also means an increase of general business, for a large share of wages goes to the retailers, and what helps the retailer helps the wholesaler, and what helps the wholesaler helps the mill and the railroad. In all directions, indeed, the promises are bright for another prosperous year.

PERSONAL NOTES.

It is the good fortune of the new German ambassador to have an American wife. An American wife is a mascot for any European statesman.

Captain Francis Marion Schell, the famous scout and plainsman, has just died. He took the first wagon train to California in the gold excitement of 1849.

Signor Marconi, the inventor of wireless telegraphy, is said to have discovered a method by which oxygen may be extracted from air at very slight expense.

There are three living ex-secretaries of war in the United States senate—Mr. Proctor of Vermont, Mr. Elkins of West Virginia and Mr. Alger of Michigan.

Mrs. Betsey M. Stevens, the surviving sister of the late General Benjamin F. Butler, has just celebrated her 95th birthday at the old homestead at Nottingham, N. H.

Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island ran short of coal the other day and was compelled to replenish his bins from the village of Centerville, some distance from his home. The coal cost him $15 a ton, with $3 a ton added for cartage.

There is no more enthusiastic hunter in either branch of congress than Senator Burton of Kansas. He has trophies to prove his skill in the chase. While in Hawaii last summer he enjoyed some royal sport after the wild boars there.

Billiard experts in congress yield the palm to Senator Mallory of Florida, whose work with the cue is of the highest order. Only Congressman Cochran of Missouri and Congressman Lanham of Texas are supposed to be in his class, and both concede the Florida man's superior skill.

A recently appointed second lieutenant in the army on his first public appearance at one of the president's receptions had some difficulty with his sword and tripped over it several times while he was in the line. It got between his legs and dangled about in a most perplexing way. "Young man," said Major General Corbin in a most kindly manner, "that thing you are wearing is a sword, not a hurdle."

During the speech of Senator Nelson of Minnesota against the admission of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona as states the senator said that 50 per cent of the population of New Mexico is Spanish and Mexican. Delegate Rodey of New Mexico, who was listening to the speech, scribbled a note and sent it to Nelson. It said: "Dear Senator—I recently had occasion to inquire into the matter, and, much to my surprise, I find that 57 per cent of the population of Minnesota is Norwegian. How on earth did that state get in?"

CHECKING DRIFT TO CITIES.

Electricity Working a Transformation in Country Life.

Portland Oregonian.

Country life is becoming more attractive, and it is probable that the census of 1910 will show a material check in the drift of population to the cities. The west, always most progressive, exhibits more of the modern movement to eliminate the isolation and uncouthness of country life than does the staid east, but even there it is notable. And in the new states, having vast areas yet unsettled, the modern agencies of communication and comfort closely follow the frontiersman, who complains that the world is growing too small.

Oregon, it is believed, introduced the barbed-wire telephone to civilization, but the device is now widely used, both east and west, and the service is being rapidly extended. The substitution of wire for wood fences is a great promoter of this modern convenience. But it is to be observed that the farm fence is made to do telephone duty only where the expense of regular telephone lines would be burdensome. In many sections the density of population and prosperity of the people require regularly equipped telephone systems for the service of the farmers, and the farms have their own little systems connecting stock barn, granary, spring house and back lot with dwelling. Instead of trudging miles in the dust and heat of summer, and mud or snow and cold of winter, to the country postoffice for the weekly mail, the farmer may now find his paper and letters at his gate daily. Through telephone and mail delivery the farmers may keep as closely in touch with the world as the city dweller. The young folks also get companionship in this way, and the duties of the farm are relieved of irksomeness.

But the east wind's moan is not emptier than a lover's kiss by telephone, and the spreading lines of trolleys add a material factor to the growing popularity of country life. They make it easy to get about, for the people to come in business and social contact, and for the variety of intercourse that adds charm to life. The young folks find here relief from the hard conditions that have so often made the farm life a prison from which almost any escape was welcome. The trolley car gives quick and cheap transportation for people and produce, and it is reaching far across country and carrying light and prosperity to the homes that have been buried in the deep, dense country.

Electricity is working most of the transformation in country life. The telephone and trolley car carry city conveniences to distant farm homes, and in some cases the residences and barns are lighted by the electric glow. The daily postman, however, is the pioneer in modernizing most localities, and the taste of progress which he gives sets on foot agencies that cure the country of the disabilities it has long labored under, without reducing its native charm and usefulness. The process will in time relieve the congestion of cities and make the country populous and fruitful. It will give our civilization a better balance and contribute immeasurably to the vigor and stability of the race.

FLASHES OF FUN.

Dalton—How that English chap did laugh at your joke!
Waller—Yes; he must have heard it before.—Boston Transcript.

Rich—I see you have a silver watch now. What did you do with your gold one?
Short—Got poor, and you know circumstances alter cases.—Pennsylvania Punch Bowl.

City Friend—In this house occurred New York's most famous murder mystery.
Country Cousin—Indeed? Which do you mean?
City Friend—The one the police solved.—Judge.

"What kind of a time did you have at the party?" asked the old friend.
"First rate," answered Mr. Cumrox. "You see, it was a masquerade party, and mother and the girls couldn't identify me and criticise my grammar and deportment."—Washington Star.

"How did you like that play of rural life?"
"It's a fraud," answered Mr. Trulirural. "'Tain't true to nature. I understand all them farm folks on the stage stays up till 11 or 12 o'clock every night o' their lives."—Baltimore Herald.

"Success," I asserted, sagely, "is due to our accurate judgment of human nature."
"And," retorted the man who always carries things to extremes, "to its inaccurate judgment of us."—Brooklyn Life.

Mrs. Gayman—My husband resolved to stop drinking on New Year's, but he didn't keep his pledge long.
Mrs. Newbride—My husband made the same resolution and he isn't having any trouble at all. He just eats cloves every time he feels like taking a drink.—Philadelphia Press.

Wife—Don't you think you might manage to keep house alone for a week while I go off on a visit?
Husband—I guess so; yes, of course.
Wife—But won't you be lonely and miserable?
Husband—Not a bit.
Wife—Then I won't go.—New York Weekly.

"I am glad to note," said the friend, "that gambling is a vice that has no temptation for you."
"None whatever," answered Senator Sorghum. "I am unable to find any excuse for a man's risking his money when there are so many sure things lying around begging for attention."—Washington Star.

"WAIT TILL YOU'RE DEAD."

W. D. Nesbit in Chicago Tribune.

You grieve because men do not seem
To understand your worth?
Because the good you try to do
Remains unknown on earth?
Because no laurel fits your brow,
Or bay entwines your head?
'Twill all be yours one of these days—
Wait till you're dead.

It saddens you because your faults
Are blazoned to the skies,
While all your virtues seem to be
Gazed on by sightless eyes?
Why worry over such a thing?
Why not rejoice, instead,
Because of all the coming fame?
Wait till you're dead.

Folks do not understand your plans,
Appreciate your deeds?
They do not laud you when you meet
Some weaker brother's needs?
They do not say kind things of you?
No rose leaves for your bed?
They'll praise you, all in goodly time—
Wait till you're dead.

Wait till you're dead. They'll tell it then;
They'll chisel it in stone,
And put it in a chosen place,
Secluded and alone.
Perhaps your splendid traits may all
In epitaphs be read—
At any rate they'll stretch the truth.
Wait till you're dead.

Your Eyes May Need Attention.

Need it badly. Why don't you give it to them? You put it off from day to day. Do you know the risk you run?

J. C. HUTESON & CO.,
213 S. 16th Street, Paxton Block.