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THE MERGER CASE.

The case of the United States against The Northern Securities Company has gone to the court and the decision, which may not be rendered for several months, will be awaited with great interest.

The attorney for the government urged with great force that the Northern Securities company contravenes the anti-trust law of 1890, that it is a combination which interferes with free competition and that therefore it is in restraint of interstate commerce.

The arguments of the attorney for the defendant were principally directed to show that the organization and purpose of the Northern Securities company do not contravene the anti-trust law of 1890, which it was held has no application to such an organization.

The careful reader of the arguments will see that there are some nice points to be determined, but it is hardly possible to avoid the conclusion that the merger is hostile to free competition and consequently is opposed to public policy and in contravention of the law.

THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE will have a great deal to answer for and explain to their constituents when they come home for good.

The Fair estate is about to be settled again. The controversy over the Fair millions has been settled so often that a final settlement would be almost a calamity.

If both sides to the coal strike could only make themselves believe they got the best of the arbitration award all concerned would be in a happy frame of mind.

It takes nine days for newly born kittens to get their eyes open. It has taken nearly nine months for the citizens of Omaha to have been hoodwinked by sham police reform to get their open.

People in Washington who watched the recent extra session of the senate think they see a closure rule in sight. Experience in the past, however, has served to create the impression that such a vision is due to color blindness.

City Clerk Elsbourn says he is opposed to the unquestionable feature of the primary election bill. But he has not yet told the governor so asked him to veto the odious measure.

The lobby at Lincoln does not have to speak over a telephone to talk to the legislators while their constituents at home do. This may explain in part the potential difference between the lobby on the ground and the constituency at a distance—but only in part.

When they want to go ahead with any project, Kansas City men do not feel it necessary first to ask the permission of the corporation managers. Omaha business men will have to break loose for themselves if they want to do effective work in pushing the city's progress.

The supreme court of Missouri has come to the rescue of the imprisoned legislative hoodlums who refused to testify before an investigating committee for fear of incriminating themselves.

be adopted by a bare majority of a quorum by the other. It is not uncommon by this process for huge jobs and steals to slide through by concurrence when only a bare quorum of either house through which it is being log-rolled is present.

Everybody in Nebraska knows that the potential force behind the proposed amendment to the revenue bill that would place the franchised corporations on one year gross receipt basis is boodle and men who support that proposition will not be able to make people believe in their honest intentions.

By proclamation of the Ameer of Afghanistan husbands in that country are to be limited hereafter to four wives. It is needless to say that the Ameer, though a devoted advocate of large families, to set the example has come down to the limit of four at once by divorcing all his surplus halves.

That Boston preacher who says that birds' wings on Easter bunnets is sure to shut the doors of heaven to the wearer is putting the modern woman up against a serious dilemma. It is the old alternative between an approximation to heaven on earth and a lottery ticket for the heaven beyond.

Washington Post. Rear Admiral Evans asks for more men and more officers and the Navy department has agreed to the appeal by reducing the number of ships in his squadron. The Navy department committed to a policy of ignoring the feelings of our heroes?

Colonel Henry Waterman sees in Grover Cleveland and in William Jennings Bryan two stubborn obstacles to the achievement of democratic success in 1904. He regards the one quite as mischievous and obstructive as the other.

Springfield Republican. It was a great thing for the cities when the asphalt trust broke down. Prices have been falling and falling until now New York City has awarded paving contracts for some \$250,000 at \$1.105 a square yard when laid on old Belgian blocks, and \$1.95 when laid on new.

Portland Oregonian. The pope, about 85, and his great age might be quoted as a reason for his serene devotion to other worldly pursuits, but here is ex-Congressman Martin I. Townsend of Troy, N. Y., an active politician and able lawyer all his days, and dead at 87.

Playing in Great Luck. The west is playing in great luck. She is to enjoy the honor of a visit this spring from both President Roosevelt and ex-President Cleveland.

Selfish Hawaiian Lawmakers. A bill pending in the legislature providing for prohibition of pigeon shooting. Live bird trap shot is a cruel, bloody and unchristian "sport."

Beighted State of Affairs in the Paradise of the Pacific. Startling news comes from the territory of Hawaii. It describes conditions so utterly foreign to anything ever known in the United States, that the average American can stand aghast at the realization that anywhere within our extended borders a beighted state of things should exist.

PLENTY OF CANDIDATES. It appears that there is no lack of candidates for 18thman cnal commissioners, so that the president will have no difficulty in finding men willing to accept the position, though he may be somewhat perplexed in making selections from the numerous applicants.

It is highly probable that there is more trouble in store for the business classes in Mexico, particularly the importers, before that country can make the change that is in contemplation from the silver to the gold standard.

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after half of the show-up period is over, as has been done regularly for all previous expositions. Hitherto the excuse has always been that the railroads were at the mercy of the scalper, but this time even that old pretext cannot be used.

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TALK OF THE STATE PRESS.

Holdrege Progress: Though the present session of the Nebraska legislature has well nigh served out its allotted time the revenue bill is still under discussion, notwithstanding that revenue revision was a paramount issue in the campaign.

Wassau Gazette: While the proposed revenue measure has provoked much discussion in the committee of the whole, but few changes of any importance have been made in the bill as reported by the special committee—changing the assessment back from February to April is, perhaps, the most important one and is regarded a decisive victory for the farmers.

Friend Telegraph: The legislature has been grinding away since January on the problem of how to raise more revenue or how to make both ends meet and at the same time retain all the superfluous offices that legislators have passed on before have created and at the same time add a few more. Doubtless this can be done by reaching for the taxpayer a little harder.

Holdrege Citizen: It is well to remember that the mere legal enactment of a city of this kind, which whomsoever public sentiment should do. Laws are often left unenforced because popular sentiment is opposed or indifferent to their enforcement. The only effectual way to rid society of many of the evils that confront us is to create a healthy public sentiment.

Grand Island Independent: The bill presented in the legislature by Senator Harrison putting a maximum on the per diem and mileage to be paid to members of the board of supervisors ought to be passed. The councilman of a city of this class receives a salary \$100 a year and there are always a sufficient number of good men to accept the office. The councilman does at least half as much work as a supervisor.

Barcroft Blade: The bill recently passed by the legislature which provides that in order to be admitted to the bar in Nebraska the applicant must have attended a high school at least three years and put in three years in a law office and then pass the usual examination seems to be along the line of class legislation and favoritism and the trouble is it is protecting a class of individuals who are amply able to protect themselves.

Fremont Herald: The senate has passed the amendment to the present election law which provides that only those who are qualified as electors with a party vote at the primaries of their party. It requires the voters to state in addition that they generally supported their party ticket at the preceding election. Brady of Boone and Coffey of Boyd, fusionists, alone voted against it.

Crete Democrat: The Democrat believes it is for the best interest as well as the duty of this state to be in evidence at the St. Louis exposition. It is the best part of the Louisiana purchase and for it not to be represented would cast a reflection upon us as a people, lacking in enterprise and spirit of emulation. The sum should not be extravagantly large, nor needlessly small, but sufficient to erect a suitable building and pay those in charge. It is said that \$50,000 to \$75,000 will be ample for the purpose.

Elm Creek Beacon: It doesn't strike us that the proposed law to assess the road tax in cash is the best thing in all regards. Large percentages of men work their poll tax on the roads who wouldn't pay the tax, or at least would be very slow in doing so. Also, generally a little can be saved by hiring a man and a team to work one's poll tax each year. The present law is all right for the present, but the work in the season when the ground is in workable order and put in a good day's work instead of beginning at 9 or 10 o'clock and quitting at 4 and soldiering then half the time. It would depend on the overseer, in any case, how much was done for the money.

Albia News: The Nebraska legislature has passed the unique bill of Senator Brown providing that all owners of land infested by prairie dogs shall be compelled to kill all of said animals by November 1, next, failing in which it shall be the duty of the overseer to exterminate the pest and for such service he is to receive \$3 per day and all necessary expenses incident to their destruction, such expense to be made a charge against the land inhabited by his dogship. Hereafter the principal requirement in the line of qualification for the position of overseer of highways will be his ability to catch dogs. Now give us a man to take hence all snakes.

Arapahoe Mirror: There is a bill pending in the legislature providing for prohibition of pigeon shooting. Live bird trap shot is a cruel, bloody and unchristian "sport." It brutalizes those who engage therein and those who witness it. It belongs in the same class with cock fighting. It is a "sport" that no human man should countenance. The pigeon has comparative value for its life, and the spectacle of fluttering birds "out of bounds" left to die in agony is not to be countenanced by men of heart and brain. The bill prohibiting live bird shooting should pass without a dissenting voice and the act of "sport" belongs to the dog and the stake.

Clay Center Sun: A bill to abolish capital punishment is before the legislature and it should pass. When and where did the Great Power that ushered man into this world delegate to a jury of twelve men to right to send him out of it? A man deliberately and premeditatedly taking the life of another violates the law. Twelve men deliberately and premeditatedly taking the life of another obey the law. Why the difference? But one can give life, and who but that One has a right to take it away? What is the expressed justification of judicial murder? To rid society of one who may take more lives? But will not imprisoning do the same? As imprisonment will rid society of the murderer, death is unnecessary to accomplish this object, therefore the good of society is not the impelling force to judicial murder. The "sport" belongs to the dog and the stake. A mob thirsts for the blood of a victim, and society is so constituted, even at this age, that it does the same. May Nebraska's legislators rise above this feeling and do away with judicial murder.

Fremont Tribune: Senator Dietrich accompanied State Chairman Lindsay to the White House Monday to confer with the president with reference to the naming of a candidate for appointment as United States district attorney for Nebraska. Dietrich is making a hard fight for Lindsay and there is little question but that Lindsay should be appointed. If the wishes of the rank and file, as well as the party leaders, of Nebraska, are to be consulted, the president holds that it will be inadvisable for him to make an appointment to which both the senators from this state are not agreed, and, in truth, it would be quite unusual. Senatorial courtesy is a very potent thing at Washington and inasmuch as a confirmation of the appointment must be had after it is made, and the "courtesy" is carried so far, it is probable the appointment of either Summers or Lindsay at this time would lead to unpleasant things. Republicans of Nebraska hope Senator Millard will recede from his position and will permit their wishes to be carried out in the appointment of Lindsay.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. The medical branch of the New York police department discovered a rare disease afflicting one member of "the finest" and followed the discovery with an equally rare notation on the unfortunate cop's appearance for treatment on a pension. Patrolman John Egan had served twenty years and the job agreed with him. He is full, robust and weighs 235 pounds. The surgeons, however, probed beneath Johnny's healthy exterior and recommended his retirement on a pension because of a decided disability due to obesity contracted on the line of duty.

Physicians from the post-graduate and Roosevelt hospital are investigating at the Seney hospital in Brooklyn the remarkable case of Joseph Robinson, who, after being pronounced dead by several surgeons, suddenly awakened, at a hearty meal and again elapsed into the first mysterious state. His limbs became rigid, his body cold, and although every effort known to experts was resorted to to find if there was life, they failed.

Robinson, who formerly was an orderly in the Seney hospital, was found in an unconscious condition at Fifth avenue and Third street by Policeman Maher. He thought the man had been drinking heavily had fallen and injured himself. He was locked in a cell, and when a short time after one of the keeper's passed he saw Robinson lying full length on the floor. He called to him, and when he did not reply the keeper called an ambulance surgeon from Seney hospital. Dr. Leecher responded and immediately began working on the man. At the end of five hours he said Robinson was dead, his heart failing, it seemed, to perform any function. There was still color in his cheeks, and to make sure the man was beyond recall the surgeon placed a glass over his mouth. No moisture gathered and the morgue officials were about to be notified when Robinson suddenly awoke.

There were several about him discussing his strange death. "I guess there must be some mistake," he said, and he jumped to his feet and demanded to know where he was. The frightened policeman notified the sergeant and Dr. Beecher returned.

Another examination of Robinson he said he did not understand his present state, but thought he had recovered. Robinson then ate a hearty dinner, fell into a sleep, and has not been awakened since. He was taken to Seney hospital, where a number of physicians are working on his case.

"We bury our New York dead in no less than eighty-six different cemeteries," says the Press. "Many of these are owned by private corporations, and they have enticed you would find certain classes of fellow citizens standing around the graves to sell white clothes for the dead to rise in. The James D. and Charles Stewart Smith family has grown immensely rich out of Woodlawn, whose 400 acres have recently been bought by a syndicate of times. This is our most fashionable burying ground, even being preferred to Greenwood. Kensico is beautifully laid out after the style of Woodlawn, and has 400 acres."

"Times and manners of today" are different from the times and manners of other days," observed Joe Howard, discussing phases of life in New York. "I was reading recently," he continued, "the names of certain fashionable women who this week have sought the solace of retirement in an adjacent retreat. To my surprise, ten of the twelve women mentioned had been divorced and remarried. Two of them had interchanged husbands. One of them had her companion a woman who had recently married her son by her former husband. The whole set is made up of that kind of social mixture, which twenty years ago would have attracted universal attention, but which today meets with not even a passing comment. No scene is more common here—in Dakota, but here—than parties waiting for the judge's signature to a decree of divorce, while their carriage stands at the door in order that they may rush to Jersey City or beyond the state line into Connecticut, for the divorce is a cruel, bloody and unchristian "sport."

How would that have been a merry jest? The Chicago divorce has been a years ago in comic columns and the vaudeville stage for a decade. If this signifies anything, it means a blunted sensibility, a thick hide and a belief that the community cares next to nothing for the severance of a tie which in olden times was the most significantly sacred of them all. In this particular city, where the wealth of the country is centralizing at an extraordinary rate, nothing is more common in our public places than the picture of divorcees, both sides well represented, generally remarried, and named invariably to the co-respondent and named, with whom they remain part and parcel of the unbroken social circle, and so far as external appearance go, without the faintest blush or indication of embarrassment. In circles where vast fortunes are controlled it would seem as if financial complications would follow divorce, but they are not. They are divorced, but they are not divorced. They are divorced, but they are not divorced. They are divorced, but they are not divorced.

So many cranks and beggars have stormed the portals of 516 Fifth avenue, New York, home of Mrs. Russell Sage, that the maid who answers the door has provided a chain bolt from her own savings, and now one must break a cable before entering the place. So long has this one slip of femur been answered by the door that she has learned the friends and usual visitors of no one not properly qualified is allowed in.

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THE OLD RELIABLE



PERSONAL NOTES.

Sir Thomas Lipton is doing a good deal of bragging about Shamrock III. It will be remembered that he did the same thing about the first and second Shamrocks.

The average age of the sixteen new senators is 52.3 years, with General Alger of Michigan leading the van at 67 and Discepol Smoot of Utah bringing up the rear at 41.

Prof. Dall Osage, inspector of the Museum of Naples, has just published an article in which he affirms that researches and excavations prove that there existed a Pompeii nine centuries before our era.

According to a Chicago professor the four leading literary men of the country are William Dean Howells, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Edmund Clarence Mearns and Henry Van Dyke—three New Yorkers and one Bostonian.

Two folks are planning to cross Niagara Falls, one lancing by his teeth to a strap attached to a roller on a wire stretched over the water, the other in a chair tied to the back of the first man. The fool killer will undoubtedly be present on the occasion; certainly he ought to be.

David B. Hill has accepted an invitation to address the Democratic Editorial association in New York City on April 13, the anniversary of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, and it is expected that he will outline his views as to the national and state policies that should be pursued by the democratic party.

Two Nebraska schoolboys were sightseeing with their parents in Washington and were taken to the White House, of course. On returning to their hotel one one asked the boys: "Well, did you shake hands with the president?" The younger of the two answered: "I don't remember, but I shook hands with the policeman at the gate. And, say, Joe," to his brother, "wasn't he a cracking big fellow, though?"

POINTED PLEASANTRIES. "Fader, vot tes a high ideal?" asked little Jakey. "Ten per cent a month," was the prompt reply.—Chicago Post.

"Have you discovered the perpetrator of this crime?" "No," answered the detective; "but we have something to show for our work. We have placed a white coat on a couple under suspicion of misbehavior."—Washington Star.

"Mrs. Dunn—My husband is an awfully busy man." "Mum—You don't say?" "Just when I'm going to see a man on business."—Detroit Free Press.

"Yes, he actually got down on his knees to propose to me." "Just the idea! I should think he would have been afraid to spoil his trousers." "Yes—Oh! first he asked me to lend him my handkerchief, and he spread that on the floor."—Philadelphia Press.

"Well, well, Weary, you are quite a sight. Your very best suit is all in rags. What's happened?" "Met a dog." "The dog must have had the time of his life." "Yes, rag time."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Is your face for rent?" asked Miss Bluff. "Really, I'm not sure. I'm a young fellow, you know." "Why—aw—do you ask?" "Because," replied Miss B., "it has such a vacant look."

A gentleman who was stopped by an old man begging, replied: "Don't you know, my friend, that fortune knocks at every man's door?" "Yes," replied the old man, "he knocked at my door once, but I was out, and ever since he has sent his daughter." "His daughter," replied the gentleman, "what ever do you mean?" "Why, misfortune."—London Exchange.

SCOTCH LOVE SONG. Walter Towers in Scottish Nationalist. I rise like mornin' as brisk as a bee, 'Tis nice far o' smiles an' my heart is o' glee. And a lassie I made the acquaintance, ye see. O' a lassie who lives at Blinkbonny.

Her face is the fairest that ever was seen, An' bithimselfe the blink o' her bonnie blue een; She has a' the manners and gait o' a queen. The lassie who lives at Blinkbonny.

Some say our lads' docters are bonnie and brave, Gude save us, they're no' in the rindin' awn; Wi' such eekle peckle, their chance would be smn'. Wi' the lassie who lives at Blinkbonny.