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E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR,

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to sefore me this 30th day of November, A. D. 1903.

M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public. In the interval General Wood finds it wisest for him to saw wood,

Even Germany is at last becoming interested in the morality and humanity of Germany's army officers.

When the fruit jobbers perfect their proposed combination all things will be considered ripe for a squeeze.

Colonel Bryan admires Lord Rosebery. Lord Rosebery has not stated what he thinks of Colonel Bryan.

As "the republicans will open the entries in the presidential race of 1904 and let the democrats follow.

June 21 will be one date when those

In arranging your Christmas donations it will be well to remember that little Irish boys don't care for any oranges in theirs.

Senator Foster declares the beet the natural enemy of the refining trust. This true, Nebraska is distinctly "the enemy's country."

A North Dakota sheriff was fined for "approaching" a juror. Thus we see how prevalent has become the popularity of golf terms.

This is an age of evolution. The twentieth century Santa Claus has unloaded the bulk of his Christmas gifts on the rural delivery carrier.

It is suspected that Mine. Nordica's desire for legal separation from her husband is prompted by a prior desire to separate him from her income.

His friends have the consolation of are admitted to Westminster abbey or sent elsewhere.

stand "pat" will doubtless be heeded. or to pray for.

Colonel Bryan may possibly have aleady written a book on his observain England. Distinguished forlgours have frequently undertaken to ate and criticise American institutions on much briefer acquaintance.

No sconer had the Fifty-eighth congress been formally opened by the reading of the president's message than its overworked and underpaid members began to ponder and wrestle with the question of adjournment for the holidays.

By the way, how do the populists like the idea of the democrats running Parker or Gorman for the presidency? Would they be willing again to be the tall of the democratic kite with either of these two great reformers at the

Peter's ball. A foreigner would naturally feel some delicacy about encircling to kill even a king when they do not like his ways.

names is the favored institution

Great national issues are not created by party platforms, but by conditions into relations with all countries. that force themselves upon the people for solution. The two burning questions that will overshadow all others in the impending national campaign are occupy the minds of all thoughtful Americans and cannot be sidetracked or

prominent republican leaders that with proved itself deceptive. Financial dis- as to which there is diversity of opinion money and the free sliver craze. Protection or free trade, high tariff or tariff firmly to their position and the opand so continued to the end. That political will-o'-the-wisp did not spend its full force even in the campaign of 1900.

trusts organized within the past five years, with their natural sequence of reckless speculations and stock gambling, followed by terrible contraction in the price of over-valued securities, sist of the secretary of the navy, the .29,746 over-production of trust commodities and threatened general wage reduction have created a problem that'demands solution through national regulation and supervision.

The magnitude of trust capitalization and the injuries trust inflation has inflicted, not alone upon investors, but upon the entire country, can scarcely be exaggerated. What would have become .27,023 of the country had the Mississippi and it would be well to have a commission drouth and the cotton states with gen eral crop failure during the present year? These crops represent at the have any practical result. No subject most conservative estimate \$2,500,000,-000. What would have become of the

even more difficult and delicate to American merchant marine. handle is the labor problem. Organized labor in many of its features is a that dominate nearly all American incomes the tug of war. The clashing of contending forces of organized labor and organized capital must be reckoned with and these agencies of modern industry kept within due bounds in order to pre vent destructive and ruinous conflicts.

A fall and free discussion of the rights and wrongs of labor and capital will constitute the paramount issue of 1904 and while no party will dare to proclaim who enjoy excitement would rather be litself as committed in favor of the trusts fire companies for extravagance in the in Chicago than in St. Louis, fair or no and against trust regulation and control or for the crushing out of trades unions. the divergence between the parties will be along those lines.

PAYING COLUMBIA It is stated that Secretary Hay is very strongly in favor of the United States paying Colombia \$10,000,000 for its title legislature that a much greater sum of insurance against fire would swamp aid Panama in maintaining its independence. As a means of assuring peace between Colombia and Panama but it is doubtful if American public \$10,000,000 to the very liberal amount which it is now proposed this government shall pay for title to the canal.

Granting the desirability of "healing the wounds in the national honor of gold," it would seem that Panama facts: snowing that by this time Herbert should be willing to at least divide the encer does not care whether his ashes \$10,000,000 she is to receive with Colombia and that the latter should be fully satisfied with such an arrange- the last eight years has been Senator Hanna's advice to members of course, attempt to coerce any payment reached 11.96, just when the underthe republican national committee to on the part of Panama, but it can with writers raised rates to recoup losses. entire propriety advise a division with especially the members whose political Colombia of the money to be paid by ambition leaves nothing more to hope the United States for canal concessions advice would be favorally regarded. lombia now has any title in the canal. All title is vested in Panama, as is to Colombia, therefore, would be solely distinctly stultify ourselves by even indirectly acknowledging that Colombia

much to pay for the preservation of peace. Possibly if Colombia should undertake a guerrilla warfare against to their care. called upon to expend more than that is, however, doubtful if there is any Germany's minister to Servia is leav. real danger of such a warfare or of any ing Beigrade rather than dance at King serious attempt on the part of Colombia the last forty-two years. to regain possession of Panama. The Colombian government must now fully women whose husbands do not hesitate understand the hopelessness of any such \$46.55 to \$51.67 per \$10,000 of risk asundertaking. It has certainly been informed by its representatives in the or less than the average. United States that not only will our government not recede from the position money returned to the public has ments expresses himself as glad to it has taken, but that it intends to steadily grown less and that retained by see the English following the American fully protect the Republic of Panama the fire companies grown greater, the by the daily work of these great insticustom of large gifts to institutions of and maintain its independence. The re- figures for 1902 having been \$44.17 and earning in that a man of means has ported movements of small armed bodies \$71.01 respectively. given a quarter of a million deliars to toward the isthmus, if true, are hardly | The author demolishes University college in London and at the to be regarded seriously and it seems found in the surplus fund as a justificasame time kept his name secret. Amer- most unlikely that Colombia will invite tion for overcharges, asserting that lean philanthropists seldom make their a conflict with the United States by unthese reserves do not belong to the inendowments anonymously-rather con- dertaking an invasion of Panama. As surunce companies, but to the succesdition them on the perpetuation of their to the new republic, it has received sion of policy holders, and that income

gaulzed government prepared to enter

MERCHANT MARINE COMMISSION,

that a majority of our people desire "trusts" and "labor." These issues that steps be taken in the interests of American shipping, "so that we may brushed aside by political timeservers in the ocean-carrying trade." The great who lack the courage to grapple with importance of the subject is fully real-Before the opening of the historic cam- telligent consideration. There are few paign of 1806 predictions were made by Americans who will question the desirability of this country carrying on McKinley as the standard-bearer all its trade with foreign nations in Ameriissues except the tariff would be forced can ships sailing under our own flag. into the background. But that forecast But how to attain this end is a question tress and commercial stagnation had and at present there is no promise that created a wave of popular discontent the differences in regard to the policy that culminated in the clamor for cheap that should be adopted will be reconciled. The advocates of subsidy hold ponents of that method are equally immovable.

In his message the president recommends a commission for the purpose of investigating and reporting to congress desirable or necessary for the development of the American merchant marine. He suggests that such commission conpostmaster general, the secretary of commerce and labor and such representation of the senate and house as congress may designate. A bill has been introduced in the house of representatives which provides for giving effect to the executive recommendation.

It being reasonably certain that the subject will not receive consideration at Missouri valleys been afflicted with investigate and report at the next session, though there is really little reason to think that the investigation would has been more thoroughly discussed than this and it is difficult to see how country had not this stream of wealth a commission could shed any new light poured out of the west and south to on it. However, no harm could be done offset the shrinkage of \$1,500,000,000 in by such an investigation as the presithe value of industrial and railroad sedent recommends and there is at least a possibility that it might be conducive Linked in with the trust problem and to practical steps for building up an

RATES AND INSURANCE PROFITS. An article in the current number of The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science entitled "Fire Insurance Rates and Methods" hibits of our American fire insurance opener to the holders of fire risks and to keep the champions of the underwriters busy with explanations for some article is a severe arraignment of the conduct of their own business and the exaction of extortionate rates from policy holders in order to pay exorbitant commissions and excessive dividends, rates ordered last year under pretext of Betts, insists that there were no unusual have been materially reduced instead of president and secretary of state can raised. It is his opinion that the colos-

study have been compiled from official opinion would approve adding another the National Board of Fire Underwriters on May 14, 1903, and are not likely to taken with the conclusions. Mr. Betts maintains that these returns, embracing the business of all the American joint Colombia by an application of American stock fire companies, show this state of

That the yearly average dividend on stock from 1890 to 1902, inclusive, has been 11.14 per cent and the average for higher, being highest in 1902, when it

That the increase of business, compar and it is hardly to be doubted that such sions and brokerage was 26% per cent, so that out of an increased income of So far as this government is concerned, about \$39,000,000, \$8,000,000, or over 20

That the payment to the insurance fully recognized in the treaty negotiated average of 10.5 cents per \$100 in the with that republic. Any payment made | years 1860 to 1870 to an average of 17.7 cents per \$100 in the year 1902 and is in the interest of peace, since we should today greater than at any time since 1880

That out of the money taken in by still possesses any title or claim in the the fire companies, while they paid out for losses in 1902 \$66,000,000 of indem-Perhaps \$10,000,000 would not be too nity, they retained \$47,644,000 for themselves, their agents and expenses, or nearly \$48 out of every \$114 entrusted

> That the average yearly premium on a policy of \$10,000 charged by all the \$80,32 in 1860-70 to \$115,18 in 1902 and is now much higher than at any time in by Joseph Pulitzer and the approaching

sumed by them and for 1902 were \$44.17.

a recognition from eix nations and at an from investments is as much payment

early date will have a completely or for current business as the annual pre- readers. The Post-Dispatch and its mium receipts. He insists also that much loss could be obviated if the comphnies sought more actively to eliminate the causes of fire and to increase the President Roosevelt correctly says facilities for extinguishing it, rather than to await its scourgings and then to raise prices-as a result most people tothem to become more careless.

The thorough ventilation of this important subject cannot fail to work some good and may even bring about what Mr. Betts demands: "More intelligent, more economical, less distasteful and less evident methods of exploitation."

MURTGAGING THE AIR.

In this age of credulous trustfuliness nobody appears to be surprised at the effort now being made by audacious promoters to mortgage the very air we breath in the shape of Marconi wireless securities. The advertisement that has been inserted extensively in the leading papers of the country announces that the safest and most promising investment before the public of today is the securities of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph company of America. Assurance is given by the promoters that the policy of the directory is conservative and the capitalization is exceedingly moderate. A limited allotment of the Marconi securities is offered for investment and to make the bait very attractive attention is directed to the fact that the original Edison electric light stock sold for \$4,000 a share one year after it reached par. and the Bell telephone stock has paid \$200,000 on each original investment of \$100. The information is also youchsafed that "while the stock of the British Marconi company is now selling at only \$22 a share, it is likely that Marconi securities representing \$5 will increase in value \$200 or even \$300." This is a not for the wavering of popular confidence in get-rich-quick schemes the air line mortgages would sell like bot cakes.

CIVIL SERVICE PROBLEMS.

The house committee on civil service reform will have presented to its attention at the present session a number of the government which, in the judgment Gillett of Massachusetts, call for present consideration. It is stated that hitherto this committee has been little else than a graveyard for certain objectionable measures that could properly be referred to it, with the certainty that they would be burfed, but the new chairman has determined to infuse some a standing which it has not heretofore had. He proposes to make it a working body, from which some practical results may be obtained. It is the intention of Chairman Gillett

to summon the executive officers of the testify concerning the alleged incompetency of many of their clerks, after which the committee will discuse a pressing question of superannuation in the civil service. The Washington cor-Post says that friends of the merit system realize that something must be done with the superannuation question, or the service will become much overloaded. The civil pension idea being unpopular, the question as to what shall changes are imperative to make the outold in the public service as to be no duties required of them is a perplexing There is naturally a feeling of sympathy for these old public servants, vet at the same time it is realized that or less of a detriment to it, which even so beneficent a government as ours cannot reasonably be expected to tolerate. But how to provide an avenue of graceful retirement for the superannuated is a problem yet to be worked out and this

> the house committee on civil service reform will endeavor to do. In regard to the incompetents the question would seem to be simpler. It is almost incredible that any considerbe allowed to remain in the public servit is natural to assume that their retention is largely due to friends in congress is also stated that executive officers with gress can do anything to remedy the ticable rule or regulation which congress might make that would be of any value if executive officers are indifferent

couse committee will find worthy of its attention and the friends of the merit system will be pleased to learn that the committee intends to do some earnest

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch is celebrating a dual occasion by the issue of a twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding opening of the great Louisiana Purchase exposition. The Post-Dispatch is World the foundation upon which the fame of Mr. Pulitzer as a journalist rests, and his achievements with both lightenment are unremitting. It is types that mark the efficiency of American newspaper makers and the superior intelligence of American newspaper

patrons are both to be congratulated.

The world's output of gold for this year is computed at \$300,000,000, in round figures, while the value of this year's crop of corn raised on the farms of the United States is computed at \$1,000,000,000 and the value of the cotton raised on the plantations of the southern states this year will be marketed for another \$1,000,000,000.

The wise soothsayers at Washington seem averse to venturing a prediction as to the time required to ratify the new Panama canal treaty until they get some definite idea of the amount of wind kept in reserve by the redoubtable Senator Morgan.

Fair to Look Upon. Chicago Inter Ocean. All the big countries as well as the little ones are recognizing Panama since she fell heir to \$10,000,000.

Prosperity Favors the Brave. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. This country is a great deal bigger than used to be. It is having hard times ! the east and good times in the west.

Magnetism of the Chaperon Baltimore American. Russia has recognized Panama. It is quite remarkable the notice the new re-

public has made since her debut in world

ociety with Columbia for her chaperon.

Melancholy Decadence Minneapolls Times.

There is painful evidence of Mr. Bryan's decadence in the fact that he is writing tour abroad and unblushingly telling about

his merry jousts with dukes and plutes. Wouldn't They Run.

Philadelphia Press. It begins to look as if a distinguished citizen of Nebraska now abroad would bring back a ready-made democratic presidential ticket constituted of William J. Bryan for president and Richard Croker for vice president. The platform would be all smiles.

WHAT AMERICANS READ.

Mental Pabulum Served in the Form of Fiction

E. D. North in the Outlook. and that most of us would rather lie down and die than think. One is reminded of matters relating to the civil service of this remark when works on philosophy, metaphysics, psychology and theology are kept completely in the background in the average book store. Certain it is that, if these books be widely read by the general public, they must be taken from the Abraries or bought direct from the publisher, as they do not appear for sale to any considerable extent in the ordinary

showing the number of books printed and the classes they represent, one gets an idea. of what the public really reads. The folvitality into the committee and give it lowing figures, although representing the publishing end of the business, are also fairly representative of the book-selling end. Fiction, imported and home-made heads the list of 1902 by an output of be ween 1,700 and 1,800. Aside from technical publications, which are merely tools for the workman, the entire lists of other works of literature for the same year, upon an acknowledged approximate estimate, number only between 2,000 and 2,500.

We must accept, then, the fact that in the three days we prefer our mental pabulum of business because he dared to speak his served in the form of fiction, and acknowl.

Mand—Was there a ring in it?—Detroit mind. So Father Curran called a public mind. edge at the same time that the boundaries between fiction and philosophy or psychology, or scientific statements, have quite this church to disappeared, and everything included in do this in the name of fair play, of comthe entire universe can, it now appears, be put into a story.

PERSONAL NOTES.

It is generally believed Mr. Bryan escaped from Ireland without attaching the historic

Florists, horticulturists and surgeons de not provoke much criticism, although they are experts in the art of grafting.

"Demote," used as an antonym for "pr mote," is the latest horror perpetrated by the Washington end of the Associated Occasionally democracy strikes the stren

ious pace. Observe how easily the supreme judges of Missouri throw boodlers out The young bloods of an Indiana school

gave their teacher a "treat" by thrusting her into a pond of icy water. The fooikiller should get busy or throw up the job. Just now Chicago is in a temper to agree to a general disarmament. The chief obstacle to peace is the difficulty of catching

shady. Galveston proposes to lift itself above high tide, about seven feet, and complete the job in three years. Things come our way when we push them. Galveston is

the gun crowd, which is both wise and

John D. Rockefeller appeared on his private golf links the other day attired in a satin vest of vivid green, gray striped trousers, yellow shoes and a tourist's cap. Another fit is due from Ida Tarbell.

Boston, the admirable, the sedate, the hoohoo of the hence, soberly admits a rec- John D. Rockefeller pere had not been ord of 19,384 arrests for drunkenness in snatched as brands from the burning and seven months of this year. People who soundly consecrated to the service and haven't the price to move away often drown their sorrows " in deep potations." The statistician of Harper's Weekly goes to the trouble of showing that the am of liquor consumed by the American public last year would fill a canal 100 miles long,

use! Navigation could not be improved by

enlarging the jagway. George H. Lorimer, author of "Letters of Self-made Merchant to His Son," in his latest contribution to packing house philosophy, takes a shot at millionaires who make conditional contributions to public institutions. "These millionaires who give away a hundred thousand or so," Old Graham is made to say, "with the understanding that the other fellow will raise remind me of a lot of boys coaxing a dos into their yard with a hunk of meat, so that they can tie a can to his tail-the pup

to get rid of the can.' BLASTS FROM RAM'S HORN.

edges up licking his chops at the thought of

thought of the hardware. If he gets the

meat he's got to run himself to death

Greedy masters make greedy men. God never demands the impossible Sacrifice is the measure of service. True culture is simple soul growth. No home is built with hands alone. They who court fame never win it. Fuith does not exclude forethought. Easy virtue is the nurse of hard vice.

a fair reflection of himself. with the chears of humility

A man's reflections on others



STRONGEST IN THE WORLD.

Make Yourself a Christmas Present

Wouldn't the absolute assurance of the substantial sum of money every Christmas morning during your declining years be a pleasant anticipation?

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SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

St Louis Globe-Democrat: A Boston ninister is to be tried for his peculiar views on the subject of eschatology. A minister might as well lie, swear and steal as to be

weak in his eschatology. Minneapolis Times: There is a priest in Peekskill, N. Y., who is a bully good chap. He has taken up the cause of a young editor whom a republican political meeting and announced: "I hereby donate year's salary as pastor of Thomas Pendell, editor. I name of fair play, of comd of common manhood. He whose wife has been reading some of his old love letters to her)—What is the use of keeping all those old things?

She—Lest we forget—lest we forget.—Brooklyn Life. one-half of my year's salary as pastor of mon decency and of common manhood. He is a Protestant and I am a priest of the Roman Catholic church, but we are brother Americans and I fight at his side." Good

for Father Curran, "may his tribe

crease."

We can stand plenty more pa

triots of his lik. Chicago Chronicle: The sudden illnes and death of Rev. James Minto Pullman in Lynn, Mass., coupled with the faintings on the same day of two women in the First Methodist church of Racine, should lead to an investigation of our churches and an aprovement of the means of ventilation. Many of the churches throughout the country were built before the present knowledge or means of sanitation were though of. The decay of years lurks in hidden corners and microbes galors wait the Sun day opening to feed upon their prey. fact that Rev. H. P. Haylett was twice stricken in the pulpit of the Racine church should have been warning enough of the existing danger without waiting for addi-

tional threats of death Kansas City Star: "Imagine what yo or I would have been if we had not saved," said John D. Rockefeller, jr., to his Bible class in New York on last Sunday The people of the United States have reason to think about that every day, and they never cease to thank God that young Mr. Rockefeller has been saved, and that his sainted father removed in his yout from Richford, N. Y., which was a wicked town, without those religious influences which have mnotified the whole Rockefel ler family. The price of crude oil has ad vanced only 35 cents within the last fev months. Just think how much higher it might have gone if young Rockefeller and worship of the living God!

DOMELTIC PLEASANTRIES,

"I want a million in my own right, papa," remarked Mrs. Croesus.
"Why?" he asked.
"So that I'll feel I can afford a husband."—Chicago Post.

An Atchison bride had printed on her calling cards, "At home Wednesday afternoons." After six months' marriage she has added: "And every day in the week, and can't get the work done then."—Atchison Globe.

"What have you to say for yourself?"

she asked.

"Nothing." he replied.

"Nothing." she repeated.

"Nothing." she said. "I have myself without saying, but I'd say a good deal for you."—Chicago Post.

"Do you think your father has any idea that I have serious intentions concerning "I heard him telling mother the other day that he didn't think it would cost any more to have you at the table regularly than it does for me to feed you from the pantry shelves every night."—Chicago Record-Herald.

THE CRY OF THE DREAMER.

John Boyle O'Reilly. I am tired of planning and toiling
In the crowded hives of men;
Heart-weary of building and spoiling,
And spoiling and building again.
And I long for the dear old river,
Where I dreamed my youth away;
For a dreamer lives forever,
And a toiler dles in a day.

I am sick of the showy seeming
Of a life that is half a lie;
Of the faces lined with scheming
In the throng that hurries by.
From the sicepless thoughts' endeavor
I would go where the children play;
For a dreamer lives forever,
And a toller dies in a day.

I can feel no pride, but pity
For the burdens the rich endure,
There is nothing sweet in the city
But the patient lives of the poor.
Oh, the little hands too skillful,
And the child mind choked with weeds?
The daughter's heart grown willful,
And the father's heart that bleeds!

No, no! from the street's rude bustle,
From trophies of mart and stage.
I would fly to the woods' low rustle
And the meadow's kindly page.
Let me dream as of old by the river,
And be loved for the dream alway!
For a dreamer lives forever,
And a toiler dies in a day!

Mrs. Wiggs of Cabbage Patch

If you have not read this delightful little story, you really ought to, it is a perfect gem of humor and natural pathos.

Mrs. Wiggs' philosophy is tender and beautiful and withal wholesome. It is a philosophy that we could all apply to our everyday life and thus become more happy and contented. She has a delightfully quaint way of expressing herself that makes the reader watch with pleasurable anticipation and hopes for her appearance on every page of the book.

It is one of the few stories that can be read aloud

and hold the absorbed attention of the listener. One of our windows is full of the original illustrations and the books and it will pay you to come down and examine them to use as Xmas gifts.

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