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M. B. HUNGATE, (Seal.)

Notary Public.

Among the air castles projected for 1904 is the new South Omaha city hall and a new Douglas county court house.

The precautionary advice for children and grown people to keep away from holes in the ice is again season-

Having come entirely on his own hook, General Reyes taking his departure at of \$75,000,000. liis own pleasure.

The Mad Mullah is said to be taming down because he has become a Hungry them has been one of unusually strained though this has been done a number of Muliah. Other animals usually become madder as they grew hungrier.

go into a receivership at this period of the year is a puzzle for which no answer can be found in the book.

of the dockets. If all the divisions had exclusive equity jurisdiction the probem would be much simplified.

Senator Allen's plea for longer judicial tenures will be heartily echoed by profit." all the sitting judges, provided it is coupled with a condition precedent that they first have the benefit of the length-

Elaborate preparations are being made return from Europe. It is safe to predict that no seats will be reserved for amnestied prodigals.

Another prize fight between the big bruisers is about to be pulled off. It to both countries to have business intercannot amount to much, however, as neither of the principals has been work- but Canada has not as yet proposed ing his jaws enough to attract very widespread attention.

The Board of Fire and Police Coma touch of the strenuous life to pass on instead of seeking an arrangement all the protests and counter protests which, like that of 1854, would be onelodged against pending applications for ticenses to sell liquor in Omaha during doubted that she will receive attention. the year 1904.

General Bates complains that the new recruits enlisting for military service are ot up to the standard as compared with former years. The prospect of a trip to the Philippines, with expenses paid by Uncle Sam, is not so alluring to able-bodied men as it used to be.

The location of the democratic national convention is still to be fixed, but the label of a democratic platform is an asset that is readily converted into cash,

Former Senator William V. Allen would like to extend the terms of bility. Much will depend upon the charelective judges fifteen years and curtail acter of Russia's reply to Japan's last gates come to be chosen. the terms of federal judges who now hold life tenure to the same period. If it should not be satisfactory to For obvious reasons that plan is not the Japanese government and should aplikely to go into operation for several

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. Whether Russia and Japan come of which she is suspected, it is by no to blows or finally adjust their differ- means improbable that Japan will take ences by diplomacy, or arbitration, South Omaha meat packers will supply of an ultimatum. the belligerents with the stuff that There is rejuctance on both sides to bepayable in gold.

the commercial depression that followed the crash of 1893 and the drouth years terested in the situation and keeping queting board for reinstated prodigals. of 1894 and 1895 had reached the great- careful watch of the course of events. est extreme, the deposits in Nebraska

fraction over \$37,000,000. a fraction under \$15,000,000. The deposits in the Omaha and South Omaha in all the Nebraska banks, including bank deposits in December, 1903, exceeded \$120,000,000.

When it is borne in mind that thouthis stupendous increase in the tangible and solicitude. wealth of the state within a period of less than eight years would seem almost incredible. When it is further borne in been drawn from the products of Neclaim to more than its share of the prosbeen recently enjoying.

GROWTH OF TRADE WITH CANADA. The advocates of reciprocity with Can-

having more than doubled in value during the last ten years. For the present year our exports to Canada will amount pelagic sealing, in which there is indisto \$130,000,000 and our imports from criminate slaughter of the animals, the that country to \$55,000,000, leaving a ultimate result of which must necesthere is nothing whatever to prevent balance in favor of the United States sarily be their extinction. As Canadians

Transcript remarks that it must be re- fere with them. Perhaps it is well to membered that the period covered by have the situation again investigated, relations between the two countries, so times, and that another effort be made far as mutually unfriendly legislation to get an agreement for the protection could affect the tension. "If so much of the seals, but experience does not How an Illinois coal company should has been accomplished," says that paper, warrant confidence that such an agree "in spite of a system of friction, dual ment would prove effective. The alterin its operations, what gratifying results native of killing all but a limited num might have been attained had the fric- ber of seals will doubtless be regarded tion been removed and our transactions by many as far too drastic. The judges-elect of the district court been on a basis of mutual satisfaction will now wrestle with the reassignment and comparative freedom. . . . We are now trading because we have to. Could we put our business intercourse on a basis of reciprocal justice we should trade because we wanted to and with mutual and greatly increased

certain that if a reciprocity arrangement exported more to the Dominion than we the other hand, that we should have by the admirers of W. J. Bryan for a taken considerable more of the natural big banquet to be tendered him on his products of Canada than have been imported, which would have come into ucts, as many believe to the disadbe admitted that it would be beneficial course on a basis of reciprocal justice, such a basis and judging from some recent utterances of her leading men pared to consider the question of recisided in its operation, it is not to be Otherwise her efforts to secure reci

procity are pretty sure to prove unavail-THE EASTERN WAR CLOUD, Conditions in the far east have again taken on a more warlike aspect and while it is not to be assumed that inevitable, there is very strong probability of it. It seems evident that a cannot be postponed much longer, for although each nation has avoided anything in the nature of an absolute ultipreparations steadily going on indicate a belief that war is more than a possinote, which ought to be soon forthcompear to be intended, as it is not unlikely more time for preparation and perhaps also to perfect the diplomatic intrigues

makes muscle for cash or sight drafts gin hostilities, because of certain distinct achievement. diplomatic disadvantages that might arise in the path of the aggressor. There Present incumbents of offices in the is a treaty of alliance between Great state house have not yet completed the Britain and Japan which is understood sonians the harmony in the democratic first year of their first term, or the first to stipulate aid and support in case year of their second term, and it would either party were attacked. It is pointed molasses in midwinter. "There is light seem a trifle too early for projecting out that Japan would hesitate to take in the window," exclaims Mr. Metcock, candidates to the front for nomination the aggressive, because by such act it "and while the lamp holds out to burn next summer. Political slates made in would forfeit the claim to the aid of its the vilest sinner may return." With the cold month of December are liable ally. Russia would hesitate through dis- such demonstrations of spontaneous forto dissolve into air before the hot like to give Japan the diplomatic ad- giveness we feel sure that repentant

In the event of war the position of the state banks aggregated \$10,227,537. United States would of course be that of Four years later, on March 4, 1900, the absolute neutrality, but American symdeposits of the state banks aggregated pathy is unquestionably with Japan, be-\$25,894,059. During the third week of cause the contention of that nation is in that the first day of the new year falls December, 1903, the aggregate deposits the interest of the civilized and comin Nebraska state banks amounted to a mercial world. The efforts of Japan are directed to maintaining that policy in the The deposits in the national banks of far east for which the United States and Omaha and South Omaha in 1896 were other nations have contended and which there is good reason to believe would be endangered by the extension of Russian banks on November 17, 1903, aggregated power there. Commercially considered, \$30,840,626.96. The aggregate deposits a Russo-Japanese war would doubtless create an increased demand for our food-Omaha and South Omaha, in 1896, were stuffs, but such a conflict could not but in round figures \$25,000,000. The total be deplored, whatever the material advantages that any country might derive from it. Until Russia makes reply to the last note from Japan the news from sands of mortgages aggregating mil- the far east is not likely to be particulions of dollars have been lifted from larly interesting, but in the meantime Nebraska farms and homes since 1896 there will be a general feeling of anxiety

AN OLD QUESTION REVIVED. The committee on territories of the mind that the bulk of this wealth has senate has under consideration a bill for the protection of fur-bearing seals braska's soil, after paying more than in Alaskan waters. The measure pro-\$300,000,000 to the railroads for trans- vides for a review of the situation conporting them to the world's markets, cerning the seals by representatives of Nebraska can point with pride to an the United States and Great Britain, achievement unsurpassed in the annals with a view to prescribing regulations of American progress and justly lay for the protection of those animals and If no agreement can be reached it perity which the whole country has authorizes the secretary of the treasury to kill all but a limited number of the male and female seals on the Pribilof group of islands. The revival of this matter, which has been a source of irriada may find some encouragement in tation and controversy for years, ought the figures of trade with our northern to lead to some definite result. Some neighbor recently given out by the years ago an arrangement was made Bureau of Statistics at Washington. with the British government looking to These show that in spite of tariff bar- seal protection, but the result has not riers and the preference given for the been satisfactory, for the reason that last five years by the British colony to the British did not carry out their part the mother country, American trade with of the agreement, and it is safe to say the Dominion has been steadily growing, that no future arrangement will prove ship something hard to contest against. satisfactory.

What is desired is to put a stop to are chiefly responsible for this the Brit-Referring to the statistics the Boston ish government is not disposed to inter-

TAKING A NEW TACK.

When the ordinance granting the privilege of planting signboards, in the terprising set of promoters was laid to sleep by the council some weeks ago it was thought that the scheme had received its quietus. It appears, however, that the schemers who have exhibited such paternal interest in strangers who Omaha were actuated by prudential reaons in refraining from pushing the signboard ordinance through the council and up against the mayor.

Now that public attention has been distracted in other directions another board scheme, not by an ordinance, but resolution. This change of tactics presumably designed to avoid votes in the council to pass the ordinance over the mayor's head should be ever, that public sentiment has under cone no change with regard to the signboard nuisance any more than it has on the billboard nulsance.

The people of Omaha are anxious to have the city beautified, not disfigured. They would rather forego the convenience that may be derived from street corner signboards than be confronted by street corner advertisements. At any rate, the council would not be warranted in attempting to do by indirection what it would not feel justified by public sentiment in doing in the open

Senator Platt of New York declares velt delegation to the national repubthe big political leaders who are active for him. The chances are that all the sire for the preservation of peace, the talk about opposition developing that would prevent the president from having the support of his own state delegation

made in various lines of scientific resome definite action, possibly in the form labor and directing thought to untrodden fields. They afford a sort of annual inventory of educational and scientific

nesty resolutions by the Omaha Jackcamp is thicker than New Orleans vantage which would result from an at- deserters from the Bryanite democ-

NEBRASKA'S RECUPERATIVE POWER. tack upon her. Whether or not any of racy, like Dr. George L. Miller, Timo The marvelous recuperative power of the European powers, particularly Eng- thy J. Mahoney, Henry W. Yates, Judge Nebraska is strikingly exhibited by a land and France, are making any ef- W. D. McHugh, J. M. Woolworth and comparison of its banking facilities and forts to avert war is not positively John A. McShane, will feel highly honbank deposits. On March 4, 1896, when known, but undoubtedly the govern- ored by being permitted to occupy the ments of those countries are deeply in- seats reserved at the Jacksonian ban-

The Hoodoo Cometh. Chicago News.

Get what enjoyment you can out of the

on Friday. Halos for the Prodigals. St. Louis Globe Democrat. Nebraska democrats have decided that was not treason to vote against Colonel Bryan in 1896 and 1900. In another year

the anti-Bryanites will be wearing badges of honor.

Wreckage as an Argument. Washington Post. The railroad companies are presenting orcible arguments in support of the employes' contention that all passenger cars should be constructed as strongly as Pullman sleepers.

pills last year. Probably the senators furnished the other ingredient in the prescription themselves.

Toning Up the System.

Chicago Tribune.

The United States senate, according to

Strong Enough to Owe It. Washington Post. They have it figured out now that Charley Schwab owes the shipbuilding trust \$18,000,-000. His physician reports that he has so far recovered his health that he feels perfectly able to keep owing it.

Takes Money to Fight.

*Boston Transcript. Fortunately it costs money to be looking for trouble, else Japan and Russia would have been at each other's throats long ago. Desirable as it is that disturbers of the peace shall be arrested and tried at The Hague for disorderly conduct, it is still more desirable that would-be disturbers shall be mulcted in advance on the bourses

Secretary Root's Campaign Manager. Philadelphia Record (dem.). Democrats may well regard with apprehension the efforts to induce Secre-Root to take charge of the Roosevelt campaign next year. Mr. Root is to have emerged from all this rumpus witha man of great force and resource. There is probably not his superior in the game of politics in the country. He has a brain power that would make his general-

Seeking the Sinews of War.

Springfield Republican. In the event of war Japan will expect London to take its loans, while Russia will rely upon Paris. Such is the expectation in the financial world. But monetary London is in a poor position to help anybody just now, and Paris has so much money employed there that the floating of a Russian loan in France must result in a gold He hasn't done anything to brag about, no movement from London across the channel. Thus in case of a Russian-Japanese scramble for war funds, Wall street, which has been drawing heavily on the British gold supply, may be forced aside.

JUSTICE FOR AMERICANS. Harsh Treatment of Railway Em ployes in Mexico Relaxed.

Kansas City Star.

As a result of repeated protests against the arrest and confinement without trial of many American railway employes in Mexcountry. This subject has been much agitated for the past two years. The abuses almed at were numerous and grievous. Lit tle discrimination had been made in the arrest of train crews following railroad accidents, regardless of the culpability of the crews themselves. In many instances the orisoners were confined in unsanitary jails for as long as two years without trial. As many of the trains in Mexico are operated by American crews this state of affairs furnished a legitimate basis of protest from the State department at Washington, Sec. retary Hay has not only secured a better practice in these cases of alleged criminal egligence and has greatly reduced the number of pending actions, but because of his efforts the Mexican Department of Justice has issued a circular letter to the minor courts advising againts arrest except on reasonable evidence and in favor of release on bond whenever possible and the earliest possible hearings in all cases.

It has always seemed that only a strong representation of this case to the Mexican government was necessary to remedy the The relations between the United States and the neighboring republic are uch that there should be no obstacles in the way of a reasonable demand made by one on the other. It will be necessary, of course, for the United States representaives in Mexico to keep alert for future infractions of the common laws of justice in these cases, for most of the abuses have lain at the doors of judges in remote districts, some of whom have been governed by venal motives and will need watching for a time.

CUT OFF THE LAND GRABBERS. Remedial Legislation Blocked by the Congressional Lobby.

New York Mail and Express There is in Washington, and particularly before congress, a sad amount of pulling and hauling on all questions connected with the public lands. Official "graft" in this field is a trifling matter compared with the efforts of members of congress to block legislation which might unfavorably affect the interests of some of their influential constituents. As a rule eastern senators and members have known very little about the questions affected and the interests involved in matters connected with the land some of the schemes which have been worked under their eyes. As a result of this indifference it is now well known that hundreds of thousands of acres of land, which should have gone to actual settlers who would have occupied and worked them permanently and in good faith, have been diverted to the estates of monopolists.

This fact being the case it is a matter satisfaction that a western man who is a sincere opponent of all this land grabbing has been made chairman of the frrigation committee of the senate. We refer to Sen ator Bard of California. All the land grab bers are now at work to prevent the repeal of the desert land act, the timber and stone act and the commutation clause of the homestead act, or else to transfer the worst phases of their peculating operations to the irrigation legislation, which is likely to be adopted. It is a matter of satisfac tion that Senator Bard is now in a position where he can exercise a small and partial veto at least on these projects.

Any opposition which develops in eithe house to the repeal of the existing legislation just referred to may safely be attributed to the influence of the live stock mpanies and the land-acquiring syndicates. Senators and representatives from the east must be fully aware of the fact by this time and should make up their minds that they have let these influences have

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

It looks as if the senate would confirm

Note and Comment Gleaned from the hensive Public Supervision. Army and Navy Register.

the nomination of General Leonard Wood to be a brigadier general; at least, that is the recommendation to be made from the military committee on January 4. publicity attaches to the testimony, given roads to adhere to their published rates behind closed doors in this case, it will be found that its character is quite different tion. The law is still to be subjected to from that described in the press accounts an adequate test. Railroads have been holidays before some gloomy person rises to point out the ominous circumstance of the secret sessions, and this will explain having all the business they can take care why the committee entertains no doubt on of and accordingly the force of competition the subject. The literary disclosures of is little felt and rates are better mainthe week in the Wood case appear else- tained at present than they have ever been where and show, in one case, the splendid before. The test will come when competifight Mr. Root has been making for Gen- tive traffic falls off and sharp contest eneral Wood and, in the other, that that sues for a volume of business not large officer long ago and promptly asked for departmental action on the charges made that the amendment of the last congress in the New York Sun and originating, General Wood indicates, with Lieutenant the government under such conditions in Runcie. That nothing was done shows the enforcing the equality-of-treatment provisindifference of the authorities at Washington in the matter and how lightly they regarded the criticisms. The statute of of inquiry, which may be brought on request of an officer or without such desire been said by Lieutenant Runcie in the comthe expense account, used 20,000 quinine sense and relieves him of any prosecution for criticism of a brother officer.

There are some things about the Wood case that disturb that officer's friends, and It is no wonder. They say he left here with no warning of all the trouble which has since developed against his cause; that his departure for the Philippines was a signal for the first shot; that he knew only imperfectly of what had been brought against him, and this when he had reached Cairo; that he had no chance to defend himself save through his friends here. The whole proceeding is regarded as a cowardly attack. With these elements in the situation the fortunes of General Wood have appealed strongly to the president and Mr. Root, along with other friends of the officer, and they do not propose to see him done up.

But what of Runcie? How fares that disturber of administrative equanimity? There is much said and written of General Wood's culpability in this and that way, but how about the faithful friend of the good old Havana palace days. He seems out a scratch, so far. He has testified to collusion , with Wood as against General Brooke, and announces that he lent himself to some sort of a scheme which he believes cepted plan of public regulation as prevendiscreditable to his former friend. If there is anything wrong with Wood it railroads be recognized by law as monopocomes pretty near getting Runcle into the same muddle. It is a pity we cannot have they please, and then let them be brought a court-martial, or at least a court of inquiry, to get at the bottom of the thing and find out who is who. Perhaps General Wood is all that his enemies say he iswhich is hardly possible of any man out of jail-but in any event let's have an end to this trumpeting of Runcie as a hero. matter how one looks on the whole deplorable incident.

Retirements under operation of law among army officers will occur during the year 1904 as follows: Lieutenant General S. B. M. Young, Jan-

uary 9. Lieutenant Colonel Charles J. Allen, corps of engineers, January 31. Major William W. Gilbert, pay depart-

ment, March 3. Colonel Timothy E. Wilcox, medical department, April 26.

Brigadier General J. P. Sanger, May Brigadier General William A. Kobbe, Colonel Alfred Mordecai, ordnance depart-

ment, June 30. Brigadier General Peter C. Hains, July 6 Brigadier General A. E. Bates, paymaster general, July 15. Lieutenant Colonel H. S. Kilbourne, med-

ical department, August 14. Major Jerome A. Watrous, pay department, September 6. Lieutenant Colonel Peter Leary, illery corps, September 15.

Colonel John R. McGinness, ordnance department, September 17. Colonel Harry L. Haskell, Third infantry,

September 24. Lieutenant Colonel Samuel L. Woodward Seventh cavalry, October 28.

Colonel Jacob Kline, Twenty-first in fantry, November 5. Colonel John J. O'Connell, Thirtieth fantry, December 16.

The campaign of the captains is on. No less than forty officers of this grade and that of major in the army have filed application for appointment as brigadier general in the army in anticipation of the vacancy which will occur in a few weeks on the retirement of Lieutenant General Young Secretary Root does not look with favor upon such applications and is said to have expressed himself to one of the candidates as regretting an incident which would certainly operate against his standing with the administration. This sign of disapproval is a healthy one. It comes somewhat be latedly, but is no less refreshing on that ccount. While about five of the captains and majors might properly regard themselves as entitled to some sort of reward for services rendered, it does not in any case amount to such favor as to jump from an army captaincy to a brigadier generalcy

be published by the military information division of the War department will ap pear about January 20. Captain Charles T. Menoher of the artillery corps is in charge of this work. In this connection i is interesting to know that the German government has decided to issue a quarterly publication from its information bu-

> Wherefore Let Us Rejoice. Philadelphia Record.

Off having advanced-or been advancedn price very much lately, Mr. Rockefeller inds himself able to give a little less than \$2,000,000 to the University of Chicago for a Christmas present. The people who con sume kerosene have an equitable right to demand that their names be carved upon the walls of the university as its benefac tors; but, of course, there would not be room for them. Nevertheless there ought to be some monumental record on the institution of the fact that Mr. Rockefeller is merely the agent employed in squeezing money out of the public for the endowmen of the Chicago establishment.

> Regenerator of Mexico. New York Tribune

What greater Mexican than Porficio Diaz was ever known before or since the era of Cortez and the Spanish conquest? He brought order out of confusion, and has been so far sighted, strong souled, forceful and wise a president of the republic below the Rio Grande that his successive administrations have steadily enhanced the welfare of the states whose destinies has guided. The revenues of Mexico for its latest fiscal year were more than free reign in congress long enough. It will \$7,000,000 in excess of its expenditures. And be dangerous to oppose the interest and yet that country, within comparatively recent memory, appeared to be hopelessly and irretrievably bankrupt.

STEPS IN RAILROAD CONTROL.

Necessity for Effective and Compre-

Springfield (Mass.) Republican It is conceded by the interstate commercial commission, in its annual report now published, that the Elkins amendment to the law is likely to prove very effective for the end in view-namely, compelling the rallenough to go around. But it is believed session will greatly strengthen the arm of lons of the statute.

So far, then, very good. But the law continues to remain weak in another imporlimitations would interfere with the work of tant particular. It is made more effective a court-martial in this case, but it would against discriminating practices; but the not operate to the disadvantage of a court | commission remains practically powerless under the law to prevent extertionate practices. The roads must adhere more closely by order of the president. Whatever has to published and equal rates; but they are as free as they ever have been to make the mittee sessions is "privileged" in a legal published rates unreasonable and unjust. And to protect the public from unreasonably high rates was one of the primary purposes of the statute of 1887. What is now needed is power for the

commission, not merely to adjudge a rate Unfortunately for him, the end of the unreasonably high, but to compel the offending railroad to make the reduction which the government of the United States through the commission considers to be reasonably demanded. Is this intolerable degree of power to place in the hands of the commission? The railroads will all say so, and will resist to the utmost any strengthening of the law and commission in this particular. But their position is untenable. It amounts to a denial of the right or propriety of government to regulate their charges. They pretend to object simply to giving any such power to the commission. In reality the objection is to any asumption and exercise of this power by the government; for if a commission, especially chosen and devoting its whole time to the consideration of the question, is unfit to exercise the power, what branch or body of the national authority can be

fitted? We must go on with this problem, then, without giving too much consideration to railroad objections. The government has put its hand to the plow and is not now to be turned back. Prevention of overcharges be turned back. Prevention of overcharges is about as important a part of the accepted plan of public regulation as prevention of discriminating charges. Let the railroads be recognized by law as monoposition of discriminating charges. lies and allowed to consolidate as much as under effective and comprehensive public control.

PRESIDENTIAL OUTLOOK.

Line-Up of the States for the Battle of 1904.

Leslie's Weekly. If the elections for congress and for state officers in 1902 and the state election in 1963 afford a reliable index of the relative strength of the parties for 1904-and the corresponding contests in all cases since the close of the civil war were a trustworthy barometer of this sort-the sure republican and sure democratic states next year, with those which are in doubt, the electoral vote of each being given, may be outlined thus, 239 votes being necessary

for a choice: onnecticut North Dakota. 7 Oregon Michigan Washington ... West Virginia... Wyoming Total.... Sure democratic Arkansas Feorgia irginia -----Mississippi Doubtful states

3 Nevada 8 New York.. Total ... To recapitulate, the republicans seem be sure of 272 electoral votes, which is thirty-three more than is necessary to The probability is that they have every electoral vote, including vada's, the silver issue being out of the way, in the doubtful list except Mary-

PERSONAL NOTES.

land's eight, which are likely to go to the

democratic candidate. Thus the repub-

licans will have 317 electoral votes, as

compared with 159 for the democrats.

The queen of Holland has just appointed an Englishman, Rev. Kirsopp Lake of Lincoin college, Oxford, a theological proessor at the famous Dutch university of Leyden.

President Roosevelt has sent Miss Sarah C. Provost, the principal of the Cove Neck school at Oyster Bay, a check sufficiently large to give every pupil a handsome Christmas present.

Sir Gilbert Parker, the author, chieved a prominent place in the House of Commons in a short time. A good deal of this is due to the unusual magnetism of his personality, which always attracts people Arthur Chamberlain of Birmingham, Eng-

and, a nephew of Joseph Chamberlain, has been touring Canada, partly on business and partly on pleasure. He bears a strong resemblance to Joseph, and looks and talks like a sharp, shrewd man of business. The salary of the president of the Amercan Base Ball league is \$10,000. The Amaigamated Association of Paragraphers should see that this meager stipend is no boosted again. We must restrict salary competition to men in the Schwab class. George Watson of Rochester, N. Y., in suit for divorce, alleges that his wife his him on the head with "The Life of Thomas Jefferson." "To what base uses my countrymen!" Come to think of it, a

a dangerous knocker. Major William H. Garland has just died at the National Soldiers' home at Johnson City, Tenn. He had shaken hands with every president of the United States except Washington. He was on the naval cade detail that welcomed Lafayette on his seond visit to America in 1824.

certain English monarch regarded T. J. a:

Sir John See, the premier of New South Wales, has added a new phrase to the political vocabulary. Urged to bring pressure to bear upon the commonwealth govern ment in a certain cause, he replied with worried and irritated air that he migh just as well "sneeze against thunder."

Prof. Frederick Starr of the University of Chicago, who has been engaged by the St. Louis fair to go to the Orient and bring back with him for the fair a group of the peculiar people of northern Japan known as the "hairy Ainos," hopes to persuade a number of these picturesque peo ple to come to St. Louis.

THE GUILELESS SCHWAR,

Tale of Innocence Rivaling "the

Simple Annals of the Poor." Philadelphia Inquirer. At last Mr. Schwab has had his say, and most innocent and injured person he appears to be, according to his own showing, If there were any wicked men in the Shipbuilding trust he was not one of them. He has acted all through in a highly enlightand tariffs without discrimination or varia- ened manner and is grieved at the accusations against him by those who were a few months ago his business associates and per-

sonal friends. Mr. Schwab bought the Bethlebem works and offered to turn them over to the Steel trust without a dollar's profit, and the wonder is that the offer was not accepted. True, the price seemed extravagant, but at the time the Steel trust was not pinching pennies. So Schwab sold the works to the shipbuilding people at about four times the cost in securities, and worked a little joker by which he couldn't lose. If there was to be trouble Schwab was secure. Trouble came and at present the only serens man in the whole outfit is Schwab, who can get his works back if there is a lawsuit, and who offers to take them back without.

In the short and simple annals of thieves falling out as disclosed in the shipbuilding litigation we have a beautiful example of how "grand finance" is carried on. We have no reason to believe that the methods of operation were very different in some of the big schemes which went through safely and are now in more or less troubled waters. The virtuous Schwab emerges from the controversy exculpated from all blame by himself-and certainly he ought to know, chapter is not yet reached.

For aught we know, Mr. Schwab will be able to maintain his position in the eyes of the law, but we wish distinctly to call attention to the fact that he is no longer being held up to the country by Sunday school teachers and other moralists as a shining example of what young men may accomplish by honesty and energy. That bubble is burst, but, all the same, Schwab has his millions and objects to being deprived of any of them by any means whatever.

FLASHES OF FUN.

Her Father-Why no, Bessle; the clerk at the toy counter didn't pass a bad \$1 bill on you. This is perfectly good. Tearful Little Girl-How can it be good, papa? It smells like an old pipe:-Phila-delphia Press.

The Owner-See here! That trunk never did you any harm, did it?
The Porter-Any harm? Of course not! The Owner-Well, then don't treat it as if it did!—Brooklyn Life.

Father-I wonder what's the matter with Nelly this morning. She acts like one pos-

Mother-She probably is. I noticed a new ring on her finger when she came down stairs.—Galveston News. Mother-Tommy, what's the matter with your little brother?
Tommy-He's crying because I'm eating my cake and won't give him any.
Mother-Is his own cake finished?
Tommy-Yes'm, and he cried while I was eating that, too.—New Yorker.

Seating himself at his writing table Thomas Jefferson rapidly dashed off a letter accepting membership in a New York protective tariff society.

"That's no worse," he said, realing the letter with a wafer and proceeding to direct it, "than it is for Bill Bryan to tour Europe in a plug hat."—Chicago Tribune.

Miss Beemer-Who is your favorite poet, dr. Weaver? Mr. Weaver?
Weaver (who is addicted to versifying)—
Really, don't you know, I think it might
appear egotistical for me to answer that
question frankly.—Boston Transcript.

Fret not o'er lost illusion

What though the abit—
It matters not a bit—
Just take the sawdust gladly and
Make breakfast food of it.
Washington Post. What though the doll be sawdust stuffed? THE BREAKING PLOW.

Nixon Waterman in Succe I am the plow that turns the sed
That has lain for a thousand years
Where the prairie's wind-tossed flowers
And the wolf her wild cub rears;
I come, and in my wake, like rain, Is scattered the golden seed;
I change the leagues of lonely plain
To fruitful gardens and fields of graen
For men and their hungry breed.

I greet the earth in its rosy morn,
I am first to stir the soil,
I bring the glory of wheat and corn
For the crowning of those who toil;
I am civilization's seal and sign,
Yes, I am the mighty pen
That writes the sod with a piedge divine,
A promise to pay with bread and wine
For the sweat of honest men.

I am the end of things that were, And the birth of things to be, My coming makes the earth to stir With a new and strange decree; After its slumbers, deep and long, I waken the drowsy sod, And sow my furrow with lifts of song To glad the heart of the mighty throng Slow feeling the way to God.

A thousand summers the prairie rose
Has gladdened the hermit bee,
A thousand winters the drifting snows
Have whitened the grassy sea;
Before me curls the wavering smoke
Of the Indian's smoldering fire,
Behind me rise—was it God who spoke?—
At the toil-enchanted hammer's stroke,
The town and the glittering spire.

I give the soil to the one who does,
For the joy of him and his,
I rouse the slumbering world that was
To the diligent world that is;
Oh, Seer with vision that looks away
A thousand long years from now,
The marvelous nation your eyes survey
Was born of the purpose that here, today,
I working the breaking plow? Is guiding the breaking plow

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