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E. ROEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Secretary Shaw may retire from the cabinet, but he will continue to be in evidence in the national arena. Living in this climate make up your mind to expect a little of every kind of weather during the month of March.

That interurban electric railroad may be slow in getting started, but we may be sure it will make good time after the cars are running. That Iowa man who has been appointed consul to Nottingham will have to work overtime to surpass Nebraska's record at Sheffield.

It seems that one circus has actually come and gone without raising a rumpus in the city hall over the distribution of free tickets. Make a chalk mark there. Late reports from the meeting of school superintendents at Milwaukee indicate that a lot of the high schoolmen had failed to take high degrees in deportment.

The public will be glad to know that although a victim of a serious runaway accident, Coroner Braley has escaped without encountering the necessity of holding an inquest on himself. And now it is the workmen of St. Petersburg who say they have nothing to arbitrate. Perhaps their fear is that they would be considered defendants rather than parties to the conference.

Mrs. Chadwick is facing a charge of conspiring against the United States government. Those conspiracy statutes seem to cover a wide scope left uncovered by other sections of the criminal code. The purchase of illegal votes at the late election in Colorado cannot have been carried on as extensively as charged else there would not be enough money left now to buy votes in the legislature.

ROOSEVELT'S SECOND TERM.

Theodore Roosevelt has entered upon a term in the presidency upon which he was elected by the greatest popular majority ever given to any candidate for the presidency in the nation's history. He is today by reason of this the most powerful man in the country, exerting a greater influence upon the popular mind than has ever before been exercised by any public man, president or otherwise, in all our history.

The acclaim and enthusiasm with which Mr. Roosevelt was ushered into the office of president of the United States was absolutely in accord with the popular verdict which made him president. In both cases it was a vindication of the popular idea for the supremacy of those policies and principles which the great majority of our people believe must prevail and which they are determined shall prevail.

Will he meet this expectation of the people? There cannot be the slightest doubt about it. What he has already done is the most complete assurance of what will be done in the future in the public interest. Theodore Roosevelt is a friend of the people. He believes sincerely in promoting their interests, regarding this as the only true way of advancing the prosperity of the nation.

WHAT REVOLUTION WOULD MEAN. The threat of revolution in Russia may not be so serious as many think, but there can be no doubt that the spirit of revolt is very general and really needs only a great leader to burst into a general conflagration of the most serious nature. To the world at large there can be little conception of what a revolution in the Russian empire, if it could be inaugurated on a large scale, would mean. If it should spread over all Russia it would be no light thing for the rest of the world. It would give the incorporated nationalities, says a writer on the subject, that have been ruled with rods of iron their opportunity.

Regarding the situation from inside, writes an intelligent student of the situation, what lies before Russia is a general dissolution of its present territorial organization and the creation of a number of smaller nationalities, or a great federation under new conditions. It is pointed out that the hope of the Russian autocracy should now be that the leaders in the zemstvo movement, who are all at their posts of duty, may be able to preserve the internal peace of the country by taking the situation in hand and administering the affairs of their provinces in a liberal sense, as most of them have expressed a desire to do. The trouble is that this is not acceptable to the autocracy, because it would go too far toward allowing that popular participation in national affairs which the government fears would be dangerous to autocracy.

UNDULY ALARMED. Some of our good friends in South Omaha, evidently under the inspiration of the local officeholders and politicians, have become needlessly alarmed over the bill that has been introduced into the legislature to facilitate the merger of their municipal government with the government of Omaha. From their frenzied excitement one would imagine that the people of South Omaha were to be forced into a distasteful union without their knowledge or consent, and that they were to be deprived of some inalienable right by chicanery and fraud. The fact is, that the bill against which the protest has been directed contains nothing whatever to which any reasonable citizen of South Omaha interested in the progress and prosperity of that community can take exception. The bill contemplates neither immediate annexation nor compulsory annexation. It provides for a merger only when a majority of the voters of each city come to the conclusion that merger is desirable and provides a way by which in that event the consolidation may be effected.

As the law stands now, Omaha and South Omaha might be almost unanimous in favor of merger, yet the movement would be blocked by a few officeholders determined not to give way in order that they might retain their official perquisites. If a majority of the people of South Omaha are opposed to merger with Omaha the enactment of the proposed bill will not impair their ability one iota to veto any plan when it is submitted for popular ratification. Those who are now objecting, however, might in course of time change their minds, and if so, the means should be at hand for carrying out their desires.

There are a great many people in South Omaha, particularly among the tax-paying and propertied classes, who appreciate the importance of eventual consolidation with Omaha and who realize that consolidation would work as great, if not greater, advantage to South Omaha as to Omaha. All they insist upon is that their interests be adequately protected and that they have the same proportionate voice in the new municipal government of the greater Omaha as they have in the present municipal government of the greater Omaha. Even without a merger the enactment of the pending bill would give the people of South Omaha an effective brake upon recklessness in their own city government and put them in position to take advantage of consolidation should their own tax burdens become too great or their own municipal government get too bad.

REFORMATION IN CALIFORNIA. The country has unqualifiedly approved the action of the senate of California in expelling the members of that body convicted of accepting bribes. Four senators were charged with this crime and after an examination of the facts that left no doubt as to their guilt they were unanimously expelled, a fact which not only reflects a great deal of credit upon the California senate, but is also a very excellent example for other states. There appears to be in the California legislature a wholesome sentiment in favor of reform which must meet with general commendation. It is proposed to put a stop to gambling and prize fights. There may be some doubt as to the practicability of stopping, except as publicly carried on, but unquestionably the prize fight business, which has flourished for several years in California, can be prohibited. In reference to this the San Francisco Chronicle says that there is no question that an overwhelming majority of the people desire the suppression of prize fights and that if the legislature responds to public opinion on this question of decency it will do more to strengthen the republican party in the state than is possible by any other means. At present California is the Mecca of the prize fighters and if that state should be closed to them, as it now appears probable it will be, their opportunities for exploitation would be very limited. The sentiment for reform in California is altogether commendable.

Why should not Omaha have representation among the appointees to the new supreme court commission? At present this county is without recognition in the membership of either supreme court or commission, although it constitutes nearly one-ninth of the population of the state and contributes to the litigation of the supreme court in far larger proportion.

HOCH, DEER KAISER OF KANSAS.

Characteristics of the Man Who Leads Kansas to the Fray. Chicago Tribune. Probably the Standard Oil octopus would have taken another think before tackling the people of Kansas if it had known their leader, Governor E. W. Hoch, is a tall, angular, slow moving man. His face is so homely the farmers' wives of Kansas agree it would sour fresh milk. He is a pious Methodist, exerts in "class" when he is at home in Marion, and looks as pacific as a universal peace congress. But out in Kansas he has known for several years that when "Ed" Hoch is rolled he is a fighter from the old town.

During the civil war and the reconstruction period "Ed" was almost the only republican here in Danville, Ky. He is a member of the legislature in the winter of 1882. The populists, who had the governor and senate, tried to organize the house of representatives, despite the fact that the republicans had a majority. There was a hot fight for possession of the speaker's gavel. It happened, somehow, to be in the hands of the county editor and Methodist exhorter from Marion county when the dust cleared away. He was elected speaker pro tempore and he has been in the leadership of the floor of the house in the most exciting legislative session ever held in Kansas.

Mr. Hoch did not seek the republican nomination for governor. The republican newspapers and leaders, who were tired of being bossed by "Ed" Leland and his cronies, handed it to him on a platter, and the people elected him in much the same manner. A man who has risen as he has is quite likely to do his duty as he sees it. He is no demagogue. His honesty has never been questioned. He is a sturdy, and he becomes immovably so when he thinks he is right. He is courageous. The weapon he has selected to fight Mr. Rockefeller may be ill chosen. Their kick-back may hurt the state worse than their kick-back would have done. But whatever the effects of the fight on Kansas, the octopus seems quite certain after the war is over to have occasion to pause and pick a few birds out of its person, and perhaps some balls of larger caliber.

WAR AS AN EDUCATOR. New Lessons in Geography Taught to the Reading World. Philadelphia Ledger. War is abhorrent, but it has at least one important use. It is an efficient educator in geography. War teaches this branch of education with more interest and thoroughness than the most accomplished professor in his classroom, and, on the other hand, it is urged by many eminent military men, that an accurate knowledge of geography is necessary for successful warfare. The art of war and geography are in intimate association. The latter is called "the handmaid of tactics and strategy." So important is the relation of geographical education to war that the London Times has opened a column to the discussion of the subject. One of its correspondents, in true British fashion, says that "to think imperially with any profit we must think geographically."

The technical importance of geographical knowledge in war and the importance of "thinking imperially" may not appeal to the American reader, but there can be no question as to the educational value of the dispatches and accompanying explanations chronicling the movements of armies on the war scene and describing more or less minutely the operations of the army. The reader has had very limited and imperfect knowledge. Recalling conflicts within easy recollection, the South African and the Spanish-American wars were great educators. As gazzettes by the newspapers, could have failed to learn much respecting Africa, Spain, Cuba, the Philippines and Porto Rico of which he was previously ignorant. The pending titanic struggle in Asia has produced a deluge of valuable information, geographical, political, social, respecting Russia, Japan and Manchuria, quite apart from the intensely dramatic features of the war.

The school books are always years behind that of the schoolmaster, the live newspaper. The mass of information and permanently useful intelligence presented in the voluminous war correspondence is one of the astonishing evidences of modern progress and of the development of the newspaper's function as a popular educator. The daily newspaper, faithful to its trust, is the world's best text book in many lines.

A NATION OF COFFEE DRINKERS. Brew of the Berry an Index of National Prosperity. Chicago Tribune. Prof. Virchow attributed the "leanness, nervousness and sallowness" which he found characteristic of Americans to their excessive use of coffee. Physicians, dietetic experts and editors of health and magazine incessantly din into our ears that we are undermining our own and our children's constitutions by yielding ourselves too completely to the blandishments of this seductive beverage. We heed them not. Instead, we increase the copiousness of our drafts. A recent report of the national bureau of statistics shows that Americans consumed nearly half of all the coffee marketed in the world last year. The total quantity marketed was 2,280,000 pounds, and of this Americans got 1,053,000 pounds. The Germans, who will let nothing slip of their precious beer, bought only 400,000 pounds of coffee. The English, preferring alcoholic drinks and tea, bought but 35,000 pounds of it, or only one-thirtieth as much as Americans. In 1899 the people of the United States used less than three pounds of coffee per capita. In 1900 they used six pounds, and in 1901 their average consumption last year was 13.94 pounds.

Medical authorities are pretty well agreed that the constant use of coffee tends to cause indigestion and nervousness. It is a fact, nevertheless, that while the per capita consumption of coffee has been rapidly increasing in this country, the proportion of people who suffer from nervousness and indigestion has been diminishing. If Dickens should visit our shores now to get material for another "Martin Chuzzlewit" he would find that the number of candidates for dyspeptic and cadaverous parts in his cast of characters had markedly decreased. The improvement in the national physique is due, however, not to the increased consumption of coffee, but to the increased consumption of fresh air and the increased use of dumb bells, golfing gloves, golf links, etc. Americans are getting rid of their bad stomachs and allaying their nerves in spite of their coffee, not because of it. But at all events, coffee is less deleterious than it is generally supposed to be. The consumption of coffee is not an index of the national prosperity. A people that spends more than \$2,000,000 in a single year for its favorite beverage must be in pretty good shape financially.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Officers of Interest Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register. There will be some important demonstrations in military ballooning when the army signal corps is established at its new general depot at Omaha. It is proposed to conduct tests and experiments for the purpose of devising a portable hydrogen generating plant, which is greatly needed in the field in the event of military balloon operations. There is nothing on the market which answers this purpose and no reliable quite satisfactory has been invented for use by European armies, or has been used in the balloon work of the warring armies in Manchuria. There are two classes of military balloons, the spherical, such as is used in the French service, and shape which may be loosely described as resembling the familiar Bologna sausage and used exclusively by Germany and Italy. This government possesses both types and will make some extensive experiments with them at the Omaha station.

There are also two classes of hydrogen plants, neither of which is entirely satisfactory, and it is expected that the signal corps will be able to improve upon the existing devices, especially in the way of portability of plant. A New York brigadier was drawn on a federal panel, but was excused after making this original statement: "If I serve as a juror I will have to leave my store with clerks, who are apt to poison the whole neighborhood. The store is in the wood alcohol district and that community has been dug about enough already. Don't you think I can serve the public better in my store than on a jury?"

THE FLAG AND THE SCHOOLS. Inculcating Respect and Reverence for the Symbol of the State. New York Sun. Dr. Woodrow Wilson, the president of Princeton university, doubts "the utility of the worship of the flag now taught in the public schools." The respect and honor for the national emblem inculcated in the public schools cannot properly be called "worship"; but, of course, President Wilson used the term loosely. His meaning is that the cultivation of the sentiment of passionate patriotism by the exaltation of that material emblem seems to him of doubtful expediency. Veneration for the flag, however, may be said to take the place of the religious instruction and worship in our public schools which are made impossible by the variations and conflicts of the different schools of theology and philosophy; but is not such a substitute desirable, even requisite? To teach children to honor the flag is to teach them reverence for law as expressed in the emblem of which the flag is the symbol. Such instruction has the advantage of being supported by the facts of the observation and experience of the children. They are admonished of the penalty of disobedience to the law in the arrest and punishment of criminals. That penalty is not off to a future state of existence, but its actual administration is before their eyes daily. Every policeman they see represents to them the majesty of the law and the danger and pain which infraction of the law brings. The flag, therefore, is for them something more than merely a patriotic symbol. It has a moral efficacy in representing the dignity and the order of the social organization and the power of the state for their preservation.

INVESTMENT WISDOM. European Countries, in One Respect, Lead the United States. Boston Transcript. One of the great disadvantages under which the nation suffers, owing to the newness of its wealth, is the lack of knowledge on the part of the people as to how to invest properly the savings that have been accumulated or the wealth that has been produced. The United States is admittedly far behind European nations in this respect. It is undeniable that a far vaster sum of money is annually lost in the country through unwise investment than through pure speculation. Speculative losses often represent the loss of money quickly gained either through former speculation or through more easy means, but the average loss of the investing public is generally a loss of hard earned or industriously accumulated savings. The possession of wealth is frequently but a measure of the productive capacity of the man, but rather of his ability to invest.

REMEDY FOR CORPORATE GREED. A trust lawyer in New York state has hit upon a scheme for the safeguarding of the public from corporate greed, so plain, so simple and so amazingly easy that it is astounding that nobody ever thought of it before. He suggests to have all trust directors and officers men of sterling honesty and thorough integrity, whose principles are above their own interests. Here is a solution that does away with the necessity for legislation, investigation, prosecutions, restrictions, publicity and all the other devices to protect the public in keeping their own. It is true that Shakespeare said it to be honest is the best policy, but that was long ago, and in these days of the simple life the selection ought to be easy.

NO COMPROMISING WITH WRONG. Whatever may happen in politics in the next four years, whatever mistakes may be made, we do not expect to see any farther from the president an immoral letting down of the standards of right and wrong. If there is any man in this country, high or low, rich or poor, who loves a square deal, he has a friend and coadjutor in Theodore Roosevelt. If there is a man in this state who is a great deal more than working for a crooked deal, he has an enemy in Theodore Roosevelt, and an enemy who will strike, fiercely, hard and fatally, if he can.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Father Copon seems to be calling the Omaha attention to things from a fairly safe distance. John D. Rockefeller has at least one friend in Kansas. Editor Howe of the Atchison Globe refers to the big company as the "Standard Oil." The senate has officially gone on record as preferring the words "civil war" to designate the prolonged struggle at arms between the states. Mrs. Stanford leaves as a memorial the most heavily endowed university in the United States; to the next generation the task is bequeathed of making it one of the greatest.

The rural mail carrier is a general convenience. A Kansas carrier recently found a note in a mail box near a farm house requesting him to feed the chickens and water the cow and mule, "as we have gone visiting." A British commission which was wind and dined in Chicago last summer publicly denounces the city's great industry and turns up its collective nose at the atmosphere of the Chicago stock yards. The incident is unfortunate, coming at a time when Chicago was inclined to stretch "the arms across the sea."

LAUGHING LINES. "Pa, what is a family physician?" "The doctor to whom you owe the largest bill."—Cleveland Leader. "I never was so happy before," said the new bride. "Marriage has made a different man of me." "I'm glad to hear it," said his rival, "for your wife's sake."—Chicago Tribune. "Failed! Why, I thought he was getting into the very strongest financial combine in the world." "So did he, but it seems it got into him."—Philadelphia Press. "Let's see, you are just 60, aren't you?" "Yes." "Then it's high time for you to retire." "Retire! I guess not. I've just taken a new son-in-law into the family and now I've got to work all the harder to keep things afloat."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Dumley—I never saw a man like Brixton to drift away from the subject under discussion. "Barrows—As for instance?" "Dumley—I just asked him what he was doing the night I saw him down the road and he evaded an answer by remarking that he had known people to get rich by attending to their own business. I have no doubt he has, but why should he mention it at that time?"—Boston Transcript.

A COWBOY LAMENT. "Leslie's Monthly." "Rawhide" Smith's gone crazy. "Rawhide" Smith was my pal. Used to be a daisy. Say, it's mighty hard! Down at Twin Buttes City. "Rawhide" Smith was my pal. Young an' slim an' pretty. An' she turned his head. Fer that little creature? Got him roped, all right; First I knew, I was in a fix. Had 'em knotted tight. Now he's gone to farm'n! Way off from the range. Says his place is charm'n! Lord, he's gettin' strange! No more pal to cheer me. Ridin' herd at night. No more comrade near me, Game fer fun or fight. One coat did fer cover. Cold nights when it storm'd. But them nights is over. "Rawhide" Smith's reform'd!

A MATTER OF HEALTH.

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Most of the well-to-do persons are in more comfortable circumstances than their neighbors, not because they have earned more money than their neighbors, but because they put their earnings into something that brought returns. The men of great fortunes of this country are more notably great as investors than as producers. The Standard Oil group of capitalists, known as the richest group of men in the world, are also the greatest investors in the world.

The future of the United States possesses great possibilities in the way of investment development. The business of the savings banks—particularly the mutual savings banks—has only begun. The enormous development of the great mutual life insurance companies, immense and rapid as it has been, is still young. The distribution of securities to holders throughout the country is in its infancy. As the country grows older in the production of wealth, the public will acquire investment wisdom, and with it will certainly come the rise of the United States to the position of the wealthiest nation of the earth.

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