

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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JOSEPH JEFFERSON.

No American actor ever had in greater measure than Joseph Jefferson the esteem and admiration of the public. Other actors have been held in high popular regard as well for their personal worth as for their distinguished talents...

For some time the people of New York have been a good deal stirred up over a bill in the legislature which proposed to give a certain manufacturing company, now using the waters of Niagara for motive power...

Whoever has seen Niagara will certainly sympathize with those who oppose such further use of its waters as might impair its beauty and grandeur, but it is a question as to how long industrial covetousness of its power can be put off...

That our government has been very lenient toward those countries which have persistently discriminated against American products will be generally conceded. It has patiently sought to have such discrimination removed...

While some doctors are talking of names in the hall of fame it is probable those who will really deserve such a place are busy with other things. An annual May congress and carnival of Nebraska fraternal associations should be almost as attractive a feature as the annual Ak-Sar-Ben festivities...

With a bagatelle of \$5,000 at his disposal for repairs to the riprap works on the Iowa side of the Missouri river, opposite Omaha, Major Chittenden, the engineer in charge, will have but little opportunity for making a showing in river improvements in this vicinity this year...

The papers of Salisbury, Mo., boast that it has more "good looking widows than any other town of its size in the state. A Milwaukee benedict, in his plea for divorce, solemnly declares his bride vulgarized him. Poor fellow, he isn't as lonesome as he thinks...

There is, however, still a very marked discrepancy between the assessment of all the railroads and the assessment of farming lands and town lots which the board is in duty bound to readjust. As computed by experts last year, the assessment of the lands and town lots of Nebraska represented 91 per cent of their market value...

General Tropeff is said to expect trouble and bloodshed at St. Petersburg. The average western man will not be surprised at this, as there is a well defined rumor that he was appointed to office for that very reason.

Now that Paul Jones' body has been found and properly identified, the democrats should make an effort to locate Thomas Jefferson's principles and have them properly tagged. The popularity of the rural delivery service is steadily increasing. During the last ten months more than 5,000 additional routes have been established...

Every returned traveler from Cuba brings back the report that the streets of Havana are kept cleaner than those of his native town, and a verdict which should stir the energies of every American street cleaning department to a more lively exertion.

It will be noted that while Chicago has after years of experimenting found it most judicious to do its hunting for game without a brass band, the greatest handicap to its success in annexing the trade of tributary territory in the northwest has been freight rate discriminations...

The first hoop skirt that goes down the line of elevated railroad cars will revolutionize the architecture of transportation. It may get wedged. But it will force wider aisles. The hand that aways the skirt is the same hand that rocks the cradle, and the world is ruled accordingly.

The first perfume of vermillion bloom drifting in the breeze from the hills above you will walk the highway or cross the little hill by the footpath, usually appears in early May. It is faint and delicate, but unmistakable—it is a token of bloom somewhere. One throws up his head and sniffs and says for itself, as he would bend his ear for some faint, far-off strain of music...

From the view point taken at Burlington headquarters at Lincoln, the effect of the extension of the Great North river from Sioux City to Ashland differs very radically from the view point taken at Burlington headquarters in Omaha. As viewed from Burlington headquarters at Lincoln it will mean a marked increase in traffic for the Burlington's Billings line and much of the business from the Sioux City territory to the northwest and much from the northwest to the Sioux City territory will be carried through Lincoln without touching Omaha and, incidentally, it will establish another line to the interior of Nebraska that circumvents Omaha...

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OVERWORKED RAILROADS.

Business Exceeds the Capacity of Freight Traffic. Cleveland Leader. Present conditions make a wonderful contrast with the years following the panic of 1893. Now it is not a question of waiting for traffic to grow up to the facilities for handling it, but of providing equipment wherewith to meet the imperative needs of business. The best railroads in America are in imminent danger of prolonged freight blockades because their patronage has outstripped their capacity for moving merchandise...

Statistics of recent railroad business are almost beyond belief as to the rate of gain in tonnage. The Manufacturers' Record, a very capable journal published in Baltimore, shows that the number of tons moved one mile, on American railroads, increased only from 6,000,000,000 in 1880 to 30,000,000,000 in 1897, the next seven years brought the enormous gain of 77,000,000,000 tons, and the total of 136,000,000,000 tons in 1904 was but one-half times as much as the ton mileage for 1880. In the same forty years that railroad traffic increased 150 per cent the gain in the population of the United States was about 30 per cent.

While the railroads have had to cope with a gain of 150 per cent in freight tonnage, they have added only 40 per cent to the number of cars and locomotives, although the gain in carrying capacity and power has been much greater than that rate of increase would indicate. The natural result is the frequent recurrence of traffic blockades, congested yards at terminal points and important railway centers, and vexatious delays in handling merchandise. What may be expected five years hence in the demands of the country expanding at the present rate?

The merger is intended mainly for making money for the underwriters, although there are doubtless business advantages to be gained by its consummation, and it will be possible to give the public better and more economical service. It will be interesting to read the details of the underwriting when they appear, if they do appear. There seems to be a good margin for somebody. New York Central stock has been selling around 125 1/2, the total value being not far from \$231,150,000. This stock is to be purchased at \$200 per share, making \$264,500,000. The total Chicago & Northwestern stock issued is \$109,000,000, unless there have been some very recent issues. It was quoted a day or two ago at 215, which would make the market value of the whole nearly \$233,780,000. This stock is to be purchased for \$300 per share, which would make \$310,500,000 for the lot, or \$59,000,000 for the outstanding stock of the two systems. But before the deal is made at \$200 per share, the total to be paid for the new stock of both systems being \$88,725,000, which, added to the value of the stock already outstanding, makes a grand total of \$253,225,000 for the stock of the two systems. The difference, however, is that the total issue of bonds is to be \$200,000,000, which leaves \$110,000,000 unaccounted for. This is probably, in part, at least, for outstanding stock issued since the latest available statement or to be available for raising cash when needed. If not, it is an unusually large honorarium, even for New York capitalists of finance.

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Senator Proctor of Vermont says that maple syrup no longer has the taste that it had when he was a boy. In this and similar cases it is not always safe to put the blame on the syrup or the thing edible. It is said that the Venezuelan government has tendered to Sherman M. Bell, former adjutant general of Colorado, the position of commander-in-chief of the entire army of that country. He is said to be seriously considering the offer.

No foreign sovereign knows the English language better than the King of Italy, when a small boy was made to speak in place of his native tongue. As a younger King Victor Emmanuel III kept a dairy, in which he recorded the events of his life in English. Benjamin Ferguson, a lumber merchant of Chicago, who recently died, bequeathed to the Art Institute of Chicago the income from an estate valued at \$1,000,000. The fund is to be used for the erection and maintenance of statuary and monuments in the parks, along the boulevards and in other public places in Chicago, commemorating worthy men and women of America, or important events of American history.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Current Events Noted by the Army and Navy Register. Captain George W. Kirkman, Twenty-fifth Infantry, whose court-martial sentence of dismissal is still before the judge advocate general of the army, is sending communications to the War department alluding to all sorts of prejudicial amounting to persecution, on the part of the officers of the army who have had to do with the construction of charges against him and the conduct of the trial. One of the complaints made by Captain Kirkman is that he is held in custody in the insane ward of the post hospital, and that he is not afforded the means at night of preparing documents of which he stands in great need as a means of defense. The reason given for his detention in the hospital under such circumstances is that he may be spared the humiliation of imprisonment in the guard house, the nature of the charges still pending against the officer being such as to make his release from arrest and confinement out of the question.

The quartermaster general of the army has adopted the five-pound all-wool, olive drab blanket of the two samples which were recently submitted to him. This blanket is to be used in the service until the present stock of blue blankets is exhausted. Another important decision reached by General Humphrey before he left on his inspection trip in the southwest was the adoption of twenty-two-ounce kersey instead of the twenty-two-ounce covert cloth for overcoats and heavy riding breeches. This is not to be regarded as in any sense a change in the uniform or one which will put officers at additional expense, since the cloth is of identical weight, color and weight, the advantage of the change being that the kersey is stronger and more durable than the covert cloth.

The military authorities are grappling with another race problem. An enlisted man at one of the posts near New York was reported as having married a colored woman and the question has come before the War department of his discharge. This has been returned to General F. D. Grant in the name of the adjutant general, the case. If it shall appear that the matrimonial alliance is in any way an interference with the discipline of the command or constitutes a disagreeable reflection on the individual, the soldier will be discharged without honor. In New York there is no law against a white man marrying a negro, but, of course, there are certain influences upon the views of a community which must be considered, in addition to which the soldier's appearance in uniform with his colored wife will plainly be the duty of the authorities to take the action which is possible under the circumstances—that of discharging the soldier without honor.

The quartermaster general of the army and the secretary of war have approved the final general scheme of extensive improvements of the national cemetery at Arlington. For the purpose of making the cemetery available by appropriation during the next session of congress for beginning this important work. The initial step will be the filling in of the old gravel pit, the most unsightly feature of the reservation, and the removal of the mill which now obstructs the view from the "Old Guard" looking toward the city. The approved plan covers work which is destined to be done for several years to come and preserves the department from a series of successive plans threatening to result in a hodge-podge. A huge amphitheatre will be built on plans which have a colossal effect. This will be located where the gravel pit is now situated. It is proposed to have a crypt containing a large chapel and retaining walls on the right and left of the amphitheatre will be a colonnade extending to the plaza running to the Arlington road in front of the cemetery. There will be commemorative monuments and columns forming what may be called a campus for the dead. Another feature of the plan for the improvement of Arlington is the reroofing of the old mansion. This has been found necessary owing to the lack of adequate protection against fire, which has already visited with disastrous effect the contemporary stables. The reroofing will be accomplished by the Army quartermasters without interfering with the architecture of the historic building.

The quartermaster's department will purchase a large quantity of supplies of the funds of the present fiscal year to replenish stock at depots. The schedule included 10,000 pairs of leggins of the old pattern, 30,000 yards of olive drab lasting, 30,000 small tent pins, 10,000 sweaters, 5,000 iron bedsteads and 1,572,225 metallic ornaments, being of the variety of design adopted as the collar and hat ornaments of the enlisted force of the army, which was the subject of illustration in these pages some weeks ago.

A general court martial has been appointed to meet at Fort Robinson, Neb., May 6. Colonel William Stanton, Sixth cavalry, is president of the court and Captain Robert G. Paxton, adjutant, Tenth cavalry, judge advocate. Lieutenant A. C. Hart, Tenth cavalry, has been ordered to that post "in arrest."

The habeas corpus case of one Frank Hamilton, formerly a soldier in the Sixth cavalry, has been settled by the circuit court of the United States for the district of Kansas. The writ was refused by the

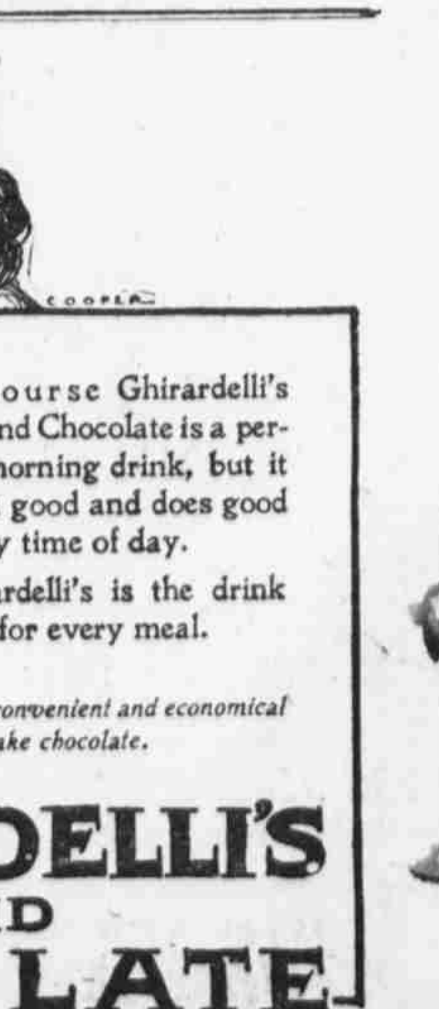


A MATTER OF HEALTH. ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Absolutely Pure HAS NO SUBSTITUTE. court. The petition was based on the fact that Hamilton was convicted under the Fifth Article of War in China during our expedition there on the charge of murder and sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the penitentiary at Leavenworth, it being held that a state of war did not exist at that time in China so far as the United States was concerned and that the Fifth Article of War was applicable only in time of war. The court in an able opinion refused the writ.

FLASHES OF FUN. Farren-Haen't our trouble with Venguela something to do with an asphalt company? Kooler—Certainly, it's a "get pitch quick" scheme that's at the bottom of it.—Chicago Tribune. "There's a man in the waiting room," said the great man's secretary. "I think he used to be a lawyer." "Why do you think so?" "He says he's anxious to get an audience."—Philadelphia Ledger. "Has that Russian general, Hitemupaki, a good war record?" "I should say so. He retreated twenty miles in two hours and forty minutes."—Cleveland Plain Dealer. Captain Dryliegh—What makes you think Colonel that water was never intended to be used as a beverage? Colonel Ryeligh—The fact, sub, that an all-wise Providence spoiled the biggest part of it for drinking purposes by putting salt in it, sub.—Cleveland Leader. "Is he in trade or a profession?" "Well, I wouldn't call it either." "No, I'd call it 'a walk in life.' He's an actor."—Philadelphia Ledger. Acquaintance—That old farmer is telling everybody that when he came out of prison with two years' confinement at Leavenworth, he was in a "pious mood." Railway Surveyor—Well, he's partly right. I ran a way right through his land. —Chicago Tribune. "Sister—What? You engaged to Miss Precent? Why, she has no family tree. Brother—Oh, I guess she has—and judging from her appearance it must be a peach.—Columbus Dispatch. "What art demands?" said the critic earnestly. "are pictures of real life!" "Well," said the actress, "that is what I provide. My photographs are on sale at every performance."—Philadelphia Ledger. "If you must whistle," said the professor, with some irritation, "pray do it in correct time." "Keep your temper," said the doctor, preparing to pucker again. "Then keep your temper!" insisted the professor.—Chicago Tribune. "The president is not in favor of trusts," said the friendly adviser. "I know that," answered Mr. Dustin Starch. "But I'll tell his doctor everything in his power to consolidate the two great parties and eliminate political competition."—Washington Star. Weary Willie—He's always tryin' to show what a great mem'ry he's got. "Brilliant, dat so?" "Weary Willie—Yeh, didn't yer jest hear him say he could remember de time w'en he was a drink nothin' but water?"—Philadelphia Tribune. Head of the Foreign Trade Office—Where would you prefer to go on our agent? Young Traveler—Well, if possible, where the natives are vegetarians.—New York Press.

PROVERBIAL. Chicago News. "Where'er there's a will there's a way," we are told. Throughout life, be whatever our station, The way's simple until It's a millionaire's will. Then it off leads to long litigation. "Much practice makes perfect." Just try it and see. But I'll privately make this admission: Once a noted M. D., He'll note little pots are soon raised. "That's a good practice makes the physician." One swallow? They say, "makes no summer." Who wrote that didn't know his profession? Though the ball may be high, And this proverb has often been praised, But if one is a jolier, He'll note little pots are soon raised. "He always laughs best who laughs last." "Which if followed might yield us much glory." At the club we protest. In relating a jest, He laughs best while he's telling the story. "One-half of a loaf is much better," they say. "Than no bread." What a moral there's lurking. Yet it sometimes occurs That one really prefers Half a loaf to a spell of hard working.

Of course Ghirardelli's Ground Chocolate is a perfect morning drink, but it tastes good and does good at any time of day. Ghirardelli's is the drink ideal for every meal. More convenient and economical than cake chocolate.



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