THE PRINCETON UNION

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THE pension commissioner who hails from Kansas ought to wear well.

THIS is an age of expansion and prices are on the program to make a little hit themselves.

PASS it around. There's a rumor that coal has dropped 50 cents a ton.—Stillwater Gazette.

Which? The rumor, the coal, or the 50 cents?

IT really looks like overtures for peace in South Africa. Under any other conditions there would have been peace a long time ago.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT during his brief trip to the sunny south and the Charlestown exposition sawed a lot of presidential wood that may make some people feel a little bit tired.

THE proposition to establish a school of mines in St. Louis county is a good one. The bill was introduced at the special session of the legislature but was not passed. An effort will be made to have the bill enacted into a law at the next session of the legislature.

SOME sympathetic person who evidently bemoans the lot of the poor editor who loses his reputation and grip at home, advises him to take a trip away from home. The writer says: "It will do him a powerful sight of good, and he will come to the conclusion that the outside world desires to treat him kindly and considerately. Such away from home visits will broaden him, and he will look with more leniency upon those with whom he differs in his local field." The advise is all good enough, but then to think that the average country editor can pack his grip and go away off some where and sit down in lands and climes remote and enjoy himself. Does it snow on the Sahara desert and do bananas grow in Ireland? We guess not.

THE Bemidji Pioneer takes exception to the statement made by a bright magazine writer who says the northern forests are the mother of indolence and the tomb of greatness. The Pioneer says that the forests are not the tomb but the womb of greatness. It also says: "Isolation forms character, not the glare and clatter of society. Genius is a night shade, a plant that grows best out of the glare of the sun and thrives best when undisturbed by the hoe of culture. Budding genius and ambitious minds look uncomfortable in high collars and spike-tailed coats. Seldom does genius succeed as a leader of the "swell set." Imagine if you can a Lincoln bred in a city apartment house, a Grant spending his youth on the Bowery, a Longfellow tuning his lute to nature from a 16-story window! Yes, solitude is the cradle of talent; society the grave."

"HEW to the line and let the chips fall where they may." This it the best way to do business, privately and publicly. It may mean apparently at times a sacrifice, but in the end it will not prove so. This is the policy Princeton should adopt. It is to be regretted that there should be any misunderstanding or trouble over the village fire ordinance. The village council of Princeton has by ordinance designated certain limits in the village in which none but absolutely fire-proof buildings shall be erected, and there does not appear to have been any gross violations of this ordinance since it was passed, and let us hope that there will not be. Under this ordinance the council has no discretion in the matter one way or another, and its duty is to see that the ordinance is lived up to without fear or favor. Fire proof means fire proof and it does not mean anything else. Let us have no patchwork of this the most important ordinance the village has, as self preservation is the first law of nature. Another matter that is up to the council is that of future water supply. The present well for some reason or another fails to furnish an ample supply of water for the village use and to keep the tank supplied for emergencies in case of fire. In the meantime warm weather is coming when more water will be needed and the streets will have to be sprinkled. Some say all that is necessary is a few dollars expended on the bottom of the well, while others insist that before a permanent supply of water can be had the well will have to go to shell rock. This means an expenditure of a lot of money. But why dilly dally with the matter. It is up to the council and it ought to act and act at once without splitting any hairs over the matter.

CONGRESSMAN MORRIS NOT A CANDIDATE.

The Pioneer Press this morning publishes a letter written by Congressman Page Morris to Frank E. Searle at Duluth, chairman of the congressional committee, in which the congressman states that he will not be a candidate for re-nomination at the forthcoming primary election. Congressman Morris says that he intends to retire from public life and will in the future devote his time to his law practice which will prove far more renumerative than serving the Minnesota district in congress. The withdrawal of Congressman Morris from the field leaves J. Adam Bede practically a clear field for the nomination. Congressman Morris has served the old Sixth district since March 4, 1897, succeeding Charles A. Towne who served one term in congress, but whom the people refused to re-elect because of his views on the money question. Page Morris entered upon his congressional career with the confidence of the people of his district and this confidence it can be said to his credit has remained unshaken. He has proved himself a loyal representative and a close student of public affairs. As matters now stand it would seem that Mr. Bede is the logical successor to Congressman Morris for the Republican nomination. He has by his loyal work for his party proved himself worthy of some substantial recognition. He filed his certificate as a candidate for congress a short time ago and intended to contest for the honor with Congressmen Morris, but the latter's withdrawal would indicate that the congressional primary election will be one of harmony and the best of good feeling.

T. DE WITT TALMAGE.

Rev. T. De Witt Talmage who died at Washington last Saturday at the age of seventy years, was one of the most eminent divines and pulpit orators of the age. In his early years he started to study law but decided to enter the ministry as his life profession, and his work as a minister and lecturer and editor of religious publications has given him a world-wide reputation. For twenty-five years he was pastor of the Central Presbyterian church of Brooklyn where he became noted for his gift of oratory and dramatic manner in the pulpit. He possessed wonderful descriptive powers and was a word painter of rare ability. In 1894 when his Brooklyn church burned for the third time during Mr. Talmage's pastorate he resigned and went to Washington where he became pastor of the First Presbyterian church. His sermons were published by a syndicate and found their way into every hamlet in the land and for that matter in many foreign lands. It is said that in this way he reached 50,000,000 readers. It is said that he made more money than any other clergyman in the world. His salary from his Brooklyn congregation was $12,000 a year. From a single firm he received $10,000 a year for his sermons. As editor of a religious paper he received $5,000 more and his lectures brought him large returns. On one occasion he refused an offer of $5,000 for a series of lectures because it would interfere with a proposed trip to Europe.

He was a prolific writer and before his last trip to Europe and the Holy Land he wrote all his sermons in advance for his publishers, and naturally enough many of them were not delivered according to program, but they reached the people just the same as if he had delivered them. His last sermon published was written by him a short time before his illness. It was a vivid glimpse of the splendors and glories of heaven, his text being from Revelations 8:1, "There was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour." In his last printed sermon appears the following:

"For the last thirty-five years I have been much of the time in crowds and under public scrutiny and amid excitements, and I have sometimes thought for a few weeks after I reach heaven I would like to go down in some quiet part of the realm, with a few friends, and for a little while try comparative solitude."

The Talmage sermon long ago became a great feature of the secular press and will be greatly missed by many thousands of readers in this and other countries.

THE Des Moines (Iowa) City railway says to the common council of that city that it will sell eight tickets for a quarter to be used on the street cars between 6 and 7 A. M. and P. M.—provided of course the city of Des Moines does not grant a franchise to any other street railway company. Well, now, how thoughtful.

AT a New York funeral the corpse came to life before the interment and the enterprising undertaker insisted on going on with the funeral as he considered the man legally dead, according to the record of the health office.

COMBINATIONS OF CAPITAL.

The great hardware jobbing interests of the country are to be combined and made into one company with a capital of $120,000,000 of which $40,000,000 will be preferred and $80,000,000 common stock. The combination will include such concerns as the Simmons Hardware company at St. Louis, Bindley Hardware company of Pittsburg, William Bingham company of Cleveland, Supple Hardware company of Philadelphia, Pacific Hardware and Steel company of San Francisco, Marshall-Wells Hardware company of Duluth, Bigelow and Dowse company of Boston, Vancamp Hardware and Iron company of Indianapolis, George Tritch Hardware company of Denver, Janney, Semple, Hill & Co., Minneapolis, and about fifty other houses, representing nearly every important trade center of the country.

It will incorporate under the laws of New Jersey and have general headquarters at St. Louis, with eastern headquarters in New York. The Commercial West in commenting on this immense consolidation says: "The real business of the sixty houses will be directed by a handful of men instead of by hundreds. For example, three or four buyers will do the work for the whole combination. At present there are hundreds of buyers employed by hardware concerns. The same elimination will apply to traveling men. Under the operation of the consolidation the twelve houses maintaining representatives in the northwestern territory can call them in, as their occupation will be gone the moment the consolidation is ready for business. A direct effect of the scheme will be the closing of houses in some of the large cities. This action will be taken in a number of places where the business is now overdone. Mr. Bindley, of the Bindley Hardware company, Pittsburg is the man who conceived the idea of merging the hardware interests of the country."

The growth and development of the vast industries and aggregations of capital seems to be the result of the inexorable laws of trade and commerce, and despite legislation and the cry of theorists and a class of politicians the consummation of these vast projects will go on. The spirit of the age is condensation and consolidation. The elimination of all methods that are money losers, the weeding out of poor properties and the building up and strengthening of those that are not on a paying basis. These systems of consolidations mean a system of great economy, and that labor is thrown out of employment is a mere incident. If the concentration of capital and business energy results in lower prices and better articles the people as well as the organizers will share in the beneficial results. If on the other hand prices are to remain stationary and the articles of manufacture are to be no better, then the benefits will inure wholly to the organizers. If these combinations and consolidations have the power to arbitrarily and artificially control prices and the people have no redress whatever, then they are a menace to society and clearly in restraint of trade. It is claimed that the so-called beef trust or big packers and beef men have been and are to-day arbitrarily controlling prices in violation of law and the federal authorities have taken the matter up to determine whether such is a fact or not.

One phase of this question is very aptly put by Rev. Sam Smith who says: "Fifty thousand men in the United States, perhaps not more, control the great trusts of the country. These fifty thousand men know that there are 75,000,000 of other people in America, and their wisdom teaches them where boundary lines are, over which they cannot go without peril to themselves and disaster to the public. No combination now says 'damn the public,' but they have their weathercocks out on every prominent cupola watching how the wind blows."

Mr. Smith wisely says: "I am a thousand times more afraid of demagogues and politicians than I am afraid of trusts and combines. Good government—which means not only the well being of the citizen but the overthrow of all that will hurt the citizen—depends upon good men in office, and instead of shouting against trusts and combinations one should give more attention to those whom we elect to office in the municipal, State and national government."

This seems to be the whole thing in a nutshell. The people if they only knew it and could only realize it are all powerful and when acting intelligently and with an eye single to the welfare of the nation are a mighty force in the face of which no power can stand unless it be one that serves the people as well as serving those who promoted and who master it.

RUM-INATIONS.

Lawton, Kansas, has a race war. At the present time it looks dark for the whites.

Gushers are getting so common in Texas that there is danger of their going up the spout.

Venezuela is all torn up over a revolution while New York city is all torn up over the subway.

The bucket shops have refused to pale into insignificance because of the warfare against them.

Mrs. Bink—Prof. Winks is so absorbed in his new study of plant life.

His Wife—Yes, it does seem to agree with him, it seems to al-leaf-iate his pains.

President Roosevelt has received from Chicago a retriever that is valued at $1,000. The dog ought to be good enough for a drug store as he is high-priced bark.

They were enjoying a few heart-to-heart talks when the clock struck 2 A. M. and the old man's voice at the head of the stairs suggested I A. M. the whole thing around these premises and this court don't keep boarders if it knows itself and it thinks it does.

Now that the dear people have no further use for coal the trust has reduced the price fifty cents a ton. The coal barons are very considerate, indeed and the reduction is inspired by philanthropic motives, as the long-suffering public can now use the extra fifty cents for ice.

A young man up in the tall grass of Minnesota went to get his marriage license and he forgot his girl's name. In the confusion he got some other girl's name inserted in the license and the joke of it was he came near marrying her. He would make a good match for the printer up in Maine who got married and went to house-keeping, but the first day after he was married he went to his old home for dinner, but his mental balance never slipped a cog after that for numerous and well-authenticated reasons.

SANCTUM SUCCOTASH.

Mrs. Elizabeth Seward, who has successfully conducted the Stillwater Messenger since the death of her husband ten years ago, died of heart disease last week.

Along with the pasque flower and the Easter hat comes Bede's Budget which is now published at Duluth. It seems like a long-lost brother and now let us kill the fatted calf and rejoice.

The Buffalo Journal prints a half tone cut of C. A. Pidgeon who is a candidate for clerk of the supreme court. Pidgeon evidently hopes to be brought out better than the pressman did the cut.

The St. Cloud Journal Press last week issued a map of Stearns county as a supplement to the paper. The map is a good one and the advertising feature was also good, which of course is the most important thing of all.

A. W. Page of the Park Rapids Clipper, has purchased the interest of his partner, C. C. Doty, who has gone to Bemidji and started in the bakery business. There will be the same number of pages to the Clipper, while Mr. Doty will proceed to take the cake in his new field.

H. P. Rising has sold the Faribault Journal to H. B. Smith and M. J. Stewart, of Lincoln, Neb., and will remove to California for the benefit of his health. Here's luck to the Lincoln boys and here's hoping that Rising as he journeys toward the setting sun will find a renewal of youth.