

THE JOURNAL

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THE JOURNAL is published every evening, except Sunday, at 47-49 Fourth Street South, Journal Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

C. J. Billson, Manager Eastern Advertising. NEW YORK OFFICE—86, 87, 88 Tribune Building. CHICAGO OFFICE—308 Stock Exchange Building.

SUBSCRIPTION TERMS Payable to The Journal Printing Co. Delivered by mail. One copy, one month, \$1.00. One copy, three months, \$2.50. One copy, six months, \$4.50. One copy, one year, \$8.00. Saturday Eve. Edition, 20 to 25 pages, 1.00. Delivered by carrier. One copy, one week, 8 cents. One copy, one month, 25 cents. Single copy, 2 cents.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS Subscribers ordering addresses of their papers changed must always give their former as well as present address.

CONTINUED All papers are continued until an explicit order is received for discontinuance, and until all arrearages are paid.

COMPLAINTS Subscribers will please notify the office in every case that their paper is not delivered promptly or the collections not properly made.

The Journal is on sale at the newsstands of the following towns: Pittsburg, Pa.—De Quette. Salt Lake City, Utah—The Knutsford. Omaha, Neb.—Paxton Hotel. Los Angeles, Cal.—Hotel Van Noy. San Francisco, Cal.—Palace Hotel. Denver, Col.—Brown's Palace Hotel. St. Louis, Mo.—Planters' Hotel, Southern Hotel. Kansas City, Mo.—Cotes Hotel. Boston, Mass.—Young's Hotel. United States, Tourists. Cleveland, Ohio—Holland House, Weddell House. Cincinnati, Ohio—Grand Hotel. Detroit, Mich.—Russell House, Cadillac. Washington, D. C.—Arlington Hotel, Raleigh Hotel. Chicago, Ill.—Auditorium Annex, Great Northern. New York City—Imperial, Holland, Murray Hill, Waldorf. Spokane, Wash.—Spokane Hotel. Tacoma, Wash.—Hotel Hotel. Seattle, Wash.—Butler Hotel. Portland, Oregon—Portland Hotel, Perkins Hotel.

THE COURSE OF BUSINESS. The week has passed without important new developments in any direction other than the announcement of activity in railroad circles along the line of new construction. All of the trunk lines have several important extensions to take care of and the probability is that before the season closes several more announcements for new branches will be made.

The move toward consolidation of rail interests has developed a sudden looking after fences. The managers seem to regard the situation as a scramble for business and they are now in favor of clinching all territory tributary to present lines for their respective companies.

The result is going to be an opening up of a large amount of new territory to settlement and use. For instance it is probable that Minneapolis will get the long desired connection into the Black Hills. There is a coveted territory west of the Missouri that is available for stock grazing and it will not do for roads that are now constructed up to the river to wait much longer before entering that territory. Announcements of a road into the Black Hills may be reasonably expected within a few months.

The general business of the country is moving along satisfactorily. There is encouraging absence of labor troubles and the season seems to be opening in satisfactory manner to most lines. Iron holds up well and the consumption is exceeding the expectations of last fall. The steel consolidation is still in process of formation and the public is awaiting further announcements from the Morgan office with interest. While there has been criticism of the steel pool from an economic side, there has been no really unfavorable effect on business sentiment.

This has followed because of the well-known character of the leaders in the consolidation effort. They are the strongest men in the country.

The bank clearings increase 30 per cent over a year ago, a fact that tells of the staying quality of the business that the country is doing. Minneapolis makes a decrease, however, while Kansas City shows an increase of 56 per cent. It may be proper at this point to suggest to Minneapolis that a little more aggressive policy would not work harm to the city. For instance, after all that has been attempted in the way of giving aid to the city it would seem as if it might be wise to make an effort to secure the direct entrance of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern into this city from the south. Minneapolis is growing at the present time as she has not done for several years. The amount of large building projected and under way is ahead of the record for a long time. But the city should take advantage of everything that offers to advance the common interest.

Investment trading is less spirited than for some time but it is still active. Wheat has advanced in the last two days for the first time in several weeks, that is as to the making of a new up price record. Liverpool has shown strength and it has created some interest on this side, although no one feels certain that the upturn will be sustained.

The first number of the Commercial West made its appearance to-day. Mr. Jones and Mr. Frisbie are to be congratulated upon the typographical appearance of their new paper, its attractive make-up, its convenient form and general inviting appearance, as well as upon the quality of the matter which it contains and the eminently respectable showing of business in the first number. The leading article is entitled "The West," in which is emphasized the fact that "the west has become a great investment field into which has been poured already a great volume of capital from the money centers of the world," but where development "has just begun." Railroad construction, mining development and resources, agricultural and lumbering interests, the present extent and prospective greatness of the commerce of this region, and some recognition of the centers of trade and industry, are noted in the general review of the field of commercial activity to which this new paper proposes to devote its energies and facilities. Interesting correspondence appears from various western cities covering the financial, commercial, grain, mining, trans-

portation, real estate and other interests. The Commercial West has marked out a large field for itself, but we have confidence in the ability of its publishers to occupy it profitably.

It is now suspected that De Wet is crazy. There is no doubt about his having kept the fellows who were chasing him in that state of mind. Crazy is a new name for military genius.

THE ORIENTAL TANGLE

Washington dispatches report that our government has ordered the evacuation of China by our troops, leaving only 150 men for a legion guard. This means that the United States prefers to remove any ground for the charge that she shares the predatory proclivities of the other powers and that liberty for independent action to protect American interests in China should be reserved for any emergency growing out of the discord in the "conqueror" wrought by Russia's bold execution of her long-cherished plan to subject North China to her system.

Our interests in China are largely commercial and our heaviest trade in cotton goods and petroleum in that country is with the northern provinces and with Manchuria, notably, Russia, with the other powers, has pledged herself to recognize our treaty rights in China under all circumstances, and, having resumed her work of disintegrating the empire, and having arranged to make Manchuria an integral part of the czar's empire along with Mongolia and Turkestan, which she has quietly placed under the Russian flag, it is well for our government to remind her of her pledge and hold her to it.

While attention was directed to the Boxers, Russia established a protectorate in Mongolia, hoisted her flag, established tax collection districts and opened banks. Who is going to displace Russia? Great Britain is not prepared to take the aggressive. She is at present financially under the weather, and her South African engagement hangs like a dead weight about her neck.

Germany is not prepared to fight Russia in the far orient or to assail her from the west, where she would probably experience the inconvenience of a rear attack from Russia's ally, France.

The Anglo-German pact of last October, while on its face favoring the open door of trade in China and the maintenance of the integrity of the empire (Germany having already assisted in the partition of China by seizing territory in Shantung province), embodied a distinct reservation of the right of each power to adopt what measures it might deem best to protect its own interests "in case of another power making use of the complications in China in order to obtain, under any form whatever, such territorial advantages."

As "another power" has revealed itself as having a voracious appetite for Chinese territory, what does the Anglo-German pact amount to as a preventive of the further partition of the Chinese empire? The vultures await the prey. Japan squirms under the juxtaposition of Russia and Korea, for Japan won control of Korea in a fair fight with China, but was deprived of her prize by Russia and Germany, but, in the further partition of China she would probably be pacified by receiving Korea.

Meantime our government stands by its protest against partition, and if it does not avail, we can only insist, with a positiveness which must be impressive, that our commercial interests and the lives and property of our citizens shall be properly respected. Our government has protested against the secret negotiations of Russia with China. Those negotiations will doubtless be consummated. In fact, they are practically accomplished. It remains for our government to insist upon the recognition of our interests in China. The commercial nations are very jealous of our successful foreign trade, but we shall not allow them to crowd us out of trade fairly won in China and to be greatly increased.

This seems to be the period of blind questioning in regard to our colonial policy. Republicans are following their leaders with that childlike, simple faith that might be sublime if it were not idiotic and criminally dangerous.—The Globe.

What should they do, if they are convinced that their leaders, the president is meant, of course, are doing about the right thing? Cavort around and make trouble and embarrass the administration in its delicate and difficult task, and otherwise furnish amusement and gratification to the Globe and other alleged democrats? Go to. The republican party is an organized force, busy with great responsibilities and with achieving great things. And that the democratic party is not.

Uncle Sam seems to have no difficulty in getting all the assurances he wants notwithstanding the soldiers of the "anti-imperialists" that the administration's policy was so unpopular that the regular army could not be recruited to take the place of the volunteers in the Philippines. The "anti" were about as nearly right on that proposition as they usually are.

King Edward has made Mr. J. Van Alen New York a knight of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Mr. Van Alen is likely to become bowlegged under the weight of the honor.

We are not saying much these days about Nebraska as a summer resort in March. Nebraska is the month that does us all proud.—Nebraska State Journal.

Lord Salisbury has assumed an air of indifference to the loss of British trade. If Cecil doesn't care, we don't.

The zinc trust fouled out. The promoters got the money and the stockholders are holding a prize lot of hot air.

A Nebraska "champeen" named Nagle beat Pillsbury in a consecutive game of billiards but he never saw first base after that game.

Charlie the goat is now looking over the alley here and there pecking up a tuscian tin can or a toothsome overhoer.

Mr. Bryan announces in a quiet way that he is willing to accept the advertising of the soap and pill octopi.

Less Occasion for It, Now. New York Mail and Express. With Peter and the Hon. Wind Allen out of the cast, the senate may possibly waltz along without a closure rule.

Along with a Different Shade. Boston Herald. The smooth manner in which Paris Gibson, of Montana, managed to have himself elected to the senate shows pretty conclusively that he is in no wise related to Paris green.

Our \$50,000,000 Beauty. Washington Post. The Hon. Thomas Carter may not talk as frequently as Mr. Bryan, but when he does open up he accomplishes something.

New York Daily Letter.

BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL, No. 21 Park Row.

Old Joke Renewed. March 16.—Another inventor has come into his own. He has turned out a machine that will render all of the comic paper "Don't-blow-out-the-gas" jokes obsolete. The inventor involved is Oscar Freeman and his idea, which has been read to the press, is designed to prevent suicides or accidents from escaping gas in a hotel. Mr. Freeman's machine was long ago used by the number of obituaries that were read to the press of the deaths of hayseeds who strayed into the metropolis, hence his device. The inventor's machine is a harmless looking silver tube about eighteen inches long with a hole at the bottom to admit gas. The tube is hung near a gas fixture, and if the occupant of the room blows out the gas or if the gas jet in one way or another gets through the hole, the gas will run into the tube and rise to the top, there encountering a sort of chemical hair-trigger arrangement which sends an alarm to the hotel office. The alarm blows the number of the room, flashes electric signals before the face of the night clerk and also rings a bell in the room where the trouble exists. The inventor says that his machine will also be used to prevent suicides or accidents from escaping gas, but also works when smoke enters the tube or when the air becomes overheated. Its introduction will be bitterly fought by the joke writers.

Photograph Your Jewelry. A valuable brooch has been recovered through a photograph and it is expected that the photograph will be used as evidence and precaution will largely be resorted to. It is found to be a great aid in running down and recovering property, although on this subject the fact, most American would not even in their best portraits. This is especially the case since it has come to be considered another form to wear jewelry on any but extraordinary occasions.

Secrecy of Plays. Theatrical managers, while proclaiming the secrecy of their plays in prospect for the next season, might well dig down into their pigeon holes and search among struggling American dramatic writers for what they desire. Dramatic writers are not to be had, and a new man may draw the capital finest rhetoric in the world cannot conquer when it is directly in contravention of solid historic facts. Bryan fell and is now trying to revive his party's fallacies through the medium of a rural weekly journal whose pages show an astonishing degree of intellectual decrepitude and puerile clinging to exploded financial and economic policies and theories.

The recognition of the democratic party, as now constituted, is a job which Grover Cleveland cannot undertake in a hopeful spirit. He and those who think with him on public questions of the crucial kind may flock together and organize a Jeffersonian democratic party, pure and simple, but they would not have with them the democrats who stood by the vagaries of the Kansas City platform last year. These seem to be incorrigible and wedded to their idols. They represent an element which the nation will not trust. They may be reorganized fifty times and they will not gain the confidence of the country, when great and crucial questions are to be decided.

The Dear Old Colonel. Our frank and delightful old friend, Colonel Olcott, has recently been elected to the office of associate of Koot Hooie and other Mahatmas of note, has reached this country once more via the United States, and is now in the city of New York. The ingenious way of the modern steamship. The ingenious way of the modern steamship. The ingenious way of the modern steamship.

A Question of Bon-Bons. BY ANNA S. RICHARDSON. Copyright, 1901, by A. S. Richardson. "Well, it's all over!" "Harrison Webster glanced keenly into the eyes of his admirer, and then, with a smile, he said: "I'm not sure, but I think I might like to see you."

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES FOR THE PEOPLE

Y.—HOW TO TAKE A CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

(By John R. Foster, President of the United States Civil Service Commission.) The fact that there are over 30,000 positions in the classified civil service of the United States at the present time which are filled as the result of competitive examinations frequently attracts the public attention. Every year nearly 50,000 applicants compete in examinations to test their fitness for public employment, and of this number nearly 10,000 are appointed to the various positions. The object of the society is to develop an active interest in the civil service of this country.

"FANNY FERN" AS A SCHOOL GIRL. Ethel Parton, in the New England Magazine for March, tells some interesting things about "Fanny Fern," the once popular writer, when she was a school girl at Miss Catherine Beecher's female seminary at Andover. Then she was Sarah Payson Willis, a girl full of the spirit of mischief, writing sentimental verses and laughing merrily under her mass of yellow hair, which she braided upon her neck. She was called "Yellowbird" and "Sal Volante." Sarah used to steal pies and eat them with a select circle of girls as guests at midnight. Miss Beecher did not get angry enough to eat, and hence the girls at the seminary were called "Yellowbird" and "Sal Volante."

Minneapolis Banks. Minneapolis now has three banks with deposits in excess of \$5,000,000. The First National, with \$5,121,817; the Northwestern National, \$5,485,653, and the Security, a state bank, with \$5,215,223. In this respect it leads Milwaukee in number, but lags behind in two. The December reports give Kansas City three, Indianapolis three and Denver three national institutions in the five-million dollar list.

Satisfactory Substitute. New York Press. Boston women, it is reported, have become very expert at bridge whist. To be sure, they are not so good as the men, but they give their self-estimates a financial backing.

Value of Seasoning. Sioux City Journal. The timber in President McKinley's cabinet has been found to stand the weather much better than that in the Kansas City platform.

Promoted to the Rear. Boston Advertiser. Fighting Bob Evans' promotion to the rank of rear admiral is the first time he has ever gone to the rear.

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