ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL OTTUMWA, IA.

Tri-Weekly Courier.

BY THE COURIER PRINTING CO.

Founded 8th August, 1848.

A. W. LEE.....Publisher
JAS. F. POWELL...Business Manager

Office: 117-119 East Second street.
Telephone (editorial or business office) No. 44.
Address the Courier Printing Co., Ottumwa, Iowa.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily Courier, 1 year, by mail ...$4.00
Tri-Weekly Courier, 1 year 1.50

Entered as second class matter October 17, 1903, at the postoffice, Ottumwa, Iowa, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

IOWA FOR COUSINS.

A few of the "trouble-seeking and self-styled republican" papers of Iowa have taken occasion to condemn the suggestion that Congressman R. G. Cousins be made temporary chairman of the national republican convention to be held in Chicago next June. One of the mildest utterances is that of the Orange City Herald, when it declares that "Mr. Cousins as temporary chairman of the republican national convention would be a misfit". However, the limit is reached when the Odebolt Chronicle misrepresents the situation in Iowa with the following unsupportable statement:

"Mr. Cousins selection for the temporary chairmanship would be a black eye for Iowa republicanism. The congressman from the Fifth district stands for policies which are repugnant to Iowa republicans. He represents a defeated and discredited faction in the politics of his state; and it is an insult to Iowa to select him for such a position. If this slap is given, Iowa will know how to resent it."

The Chronicle's statement is made without any regard whatever for the truth. Congressman Cousins stands, and always has stood, for sound republican principles. Among Iowa's many sturdy sons not one is to be found who is a more able and consistent expounder of republican doctrines than the brilliant representative from the Fifth Iowa district. He stands for the doctrines in which the republicans of the state believe. Advocating these principles, he went about the state during the last campaign, and was a power in bringing about that 80,000 plurality, by which the republican state ticket was elected. That does not look as though Mr. Cousins belonged "to a defeated and dissatisfied faction in the politics of Iowa".

Truth is, that because Mr. Cousins has always stood for the "all wool" sort of republicanism, he has been subjected to criticism from a number of discontented Iowa papers, but these, by no means represent the true spirit of Iowa republicans. The republicans of the Hawkeye state are proud of Congressman Cousins, and should the temporary chairmanship come to this state they would be pleased to see it go to him. It would be a worthy compliment to this banner republican state, and a deserved recognition of the able services of this peer among republicans of the nation. Iowa will be found for Mr. Cousins for temporary chairman of the national convention, and the republicanism for which he and the people of Iowa stand will remain long after the teachings of his critics have been relegated to political oblivion.

BUSINESS REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Reports of the trade conditions from all parts of the country shows that the season just closing has been one of the most prosperous ever experienced in this country and that the outlook for the coming year is most encouraging for continued activity. Holiday trade at most of the large centers has equalled if not exceeded that of last season and this activity has penetrated to every town and village in the country. In fact the conditions as reported by business interests in all parts of the country are at variance with the "hard times" talk of certain "calamity wailers." It is interesting to note the comments of prominent merchants in all parts of the country relative to the business of the past year and the outlook for the coming twelve months.

St. Louis merchants say that an increased volume of traffic will go to that city next year and that the snow and rain have given needed relief in the winter wheat regions.

From Philadelphia comes the report that the general trade prospect for 1904 is bright despite what a presidential year may bring.

In Baltimore that the outlook is fair and that agricultural prospects at the south are prosperous.

From Pittsburg that industrial coke users are buying freely again, which stimulates the feeling of encouragement following the reaffirmation of the steel prices by pools.

Chicago merchants say that interior jobbers are buying cautiously.

St. Paul and Minneapolis jobbers tell of a steady and general increase of wealth throughout the northwest, with a volume of business for the year fully equal to that of 1902.

On the Pacific coast, notably at San Francisco, wholesale trade has been the best for years past at like periods.

At Cleveland the outlook for next year is good in all leading lines.

At Louisville dry weather, which interferes with marketing the tobacco crop is the only drag. In other lines the record exceeds 1902.

At Boston interest and dividend disbursements of this week are expected to run up to about $25,000,000.

Texas railroads are taxed to handle freight offered.

With regard to the condition of the steel trade, which is the thermometer of business activity, Pittsburg, Chicago and Birmingham authorities agree that a stopping place has been reached in the reaction in iron and steel. Delayed orders, many of which were held back to see how low prices would go, will be placed after the holidays. The year closes with a much brighter outlook and with better prospects for gain than did 1902. Western railroads bear out the reports of commercial prosperity with advices of tonnage 10 per cent more than a year ago.

HOSTETTER'S CELEBRATED STOMACH BITTERS

Doctors never hesitate in prescribing the Bitters in cases of Indigestion, Constipation, Biliousness, Dyspepsia, Chills, Colds, and Malaria. They know it cures. Give it a trial, also get a copy of our 1904 Almanac from your druggist. It is free.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTIONS.

The republican national convention to be held in Chicago next year will be held at a later date than any of the twelve proceeding conventions of that party. The national committee at the meeting held recently in Washington fixed the date for June 21. This fact makes interesting the compilation of the dates and places of holding the former gatherings of the republican party.

Philadelphia, June 17, 1856.
Chicago, May 16, 1860.
Baltimore, June 7, 1864.
Chicago, May 20, 1868.
Philadelphia June 5, 1872.
Cincinnati, June 14, 1876.
Chicago, June 2, 1880.
Chicago, June 3, 1884.
Chicago, June 19, 1888.
Minneapolis, June 7, 1892.
St. Louis, June 16, 1896.
Philadelphia, June 19, 1900.

From these figures it appears that no convention of the national republican party has ever been held at so late a date as that for 1904. The election next fall will be held on the latest possible date, namely November 8, which will be the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the month. This will make the campaign exactly as long as that of 1900 when the convention was held June 19, and the election on the sixth of November. It is probable however, that the campaign next year will be materially shorter than that of any presidential year since the organization of the republican party in 1856.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN LAWS.

Recommendations looking to the making of certain changes in the criminal laws of the state have recently been made by Judge G. S. Robinson of the state board of control. Mr. Robinson's suggestions are:

1. State inspection of city and county prisons.
2. Juvenile courts with discretionary power.
3. State reformatory for males under thirty and women under twenty-five.
4. Power to suspend sentence, when for less than two years.
5. Indeterminate sentences for all but life prisoners.
6. Creation of a parole and prison board.
7. Supervision of the paroled criminal and furnish him employment.

Taken as a whole the proposed changes of Judge Robinson are worthy of careful consideration. State inspection of county and municipal prisons would undoubtedly be a change that would tend to better the conditions of the jails and its inmates. As to the establishment of juvenile courts it appears that such a change, especially in the larger cities of the state, would fill a need that has long been apparent. Reformatories for young men and women is unquestionably a desirable feature of Judge Robinson's recommendations. The proposition to grant power to suspend sentence of two years or less is one that should be put into practice only after proper provision is made for its enforcement. The acceptance of the recommendation for indeterminate sentences should be only after careful consideration, if at all. The question of the creation of a parole and prison board has received considerable attention during the recent months and it is questionable whether the time is now ripe for such an innovation. Similar objections might be raised with regard to the seventh recommendation.

While the state legislature may not now be ready to pass upon all these suggestions it will be wise to take them under consideration. It should be the object of Iowans to take care of the state's prisoners in the manner that will be best for them and for the state at large. Perhaps Judge Robinson's recommendations will eventually be adopted.

RELATIONS WITH PANAMA.

The sentiment expressed by Minister Buchanan in presenting his credentials in Panama on Christmas day, was such as predominates in the minds of the American people regarding the new isthmian republic. Mr. Buchanan said in part:

"The advent and future development of this new nation is the object of keen and kindly interest on the part of the people of the United States, all of whom wish your country that wide progress and advancement which peace and economy brings to all nations."

"I am charged by President Roosevelt to express his fervent wish that these benefits shall come to the republic of Panama, and happiness and contentment shall abide with your excellencies and your people."

Appreciating the benefit of liberty, individual and national, the people of the United States are always ready to give encouragement to a people desirous of gaining their freedom and setting up for themselves a government. Minister Buchanan's words in expressing the wish that the greatest benefit of freedom and the "progress and abvancement which peace and economy bring to all nations" may be enjoyed by the people of the isthmus, were exceedingly timely, and will doubtless be productive of the promotion of most cordial relations between the two countries.

Minister Buchanan's reception by the officials of the Panama republic is indicative of the good feeling existing among the people of Panama toward the United States, and it is doubtless that his presence in the isthmus will greatly will greatly increase the friendliness between the two countries.

Senator Gorman is likely to hear something when congress meets on January 4 that will not be to his liking. The people of the south want the canal and they are going to make themselves heard on the subject.

If Colombia should decide to take better advantage of her opportunities in the future than in the past she may enjoy a much "Happier New Year" that will extend through the coming twelve months.

There never was any desire in the United States to annex Panama. All we wanted was authority to control the canal strip and the privilege of building the canal.

Help the hospital committee in its work of soliciting funds for the erection of the new hospital building, by having your mind made up to give generously to the project.

Hon. W. I. Buchanan was given a right hearty welcome when he reached Panama to begin his duties as minister to the new republic.

The Sioux City Journal remarks that "there isn't enough left of the case against General Wood to use for kindling."

That testimony of Secretary Root in the Wood case was received with great satisfaction by the people of the country.

You might as well get that Christmas shopping over right away then there will be no more worry about it.

Remember the hospital is to be erected for the benefit of the people of Ottumwa.

Now it is reported that Japan has set a time limit to the communication sent to Russia.

Colombia had better be getting those New Year's resolutions in shape.

And this is the last week. Have you bought those Christmas presents yet?

That was well done Mr. Knox.

IOWA PRESS COMMENT.

The Iowa City Republican does not think there is any likelihood of republicans burning their fingers a second time with the liquor question.

—o—

As to the investments in northern lands made by Iowa people during the last few years, the Fairfield Ledger says it isn't the amount actually invested that is going to cause trouble, but the amount yet to be paid. "Settlement day," the Ledger predicts, "is going to work a hardship on many so called investors who have paid 10 per cent down and speculated on 90. And it is going to come."

—o—

The Keokuk Gate City is opposed to the opening of Pandora boxes unnecessarily, and therefore it advises letting the mulct law alone. It also suggests that the communities that feel themselves aggrieved would do well to bear the ills they have rather than to fly to others they know not of.

—o—

The Mt. Ayr Record does not believe that the people generally care much whether elections are annual or biennial, but it is positive they would like an arrangement whereby the Des Moines mayoralty contest would occur only once in about ten years. "The whole thing," says the Record, "has become very monotonous to the average village and rural life. Could not something be done in the way of relief. The coming contest promises to be exceedingly bitter. How the weary one does long for rest."

—o—

The Dubuque Telegraph-Herald (dem.) is convinced that only the presence of Mr. Hoar on the republican side of the senate saves him from becoming wholly bad.

—o—

A Waterloo paper said the government did not need an army post at Des Moines, but the Vinton Eagle takes the opposite view and suggests that, the need being a fact, it is well enough to have the post built in Iowa.

—o—

"A good way to convince the equal suffrage association that the people of Iowa do not want woman suffrage," suggests the Hampton Chronicle, "is for the legislature to submit the question to the voters. After a vote is taken it is not likely that the ladies would maintain a paid lobby around the halls of the capitol building every time the assembly met."

—o—

The Washington Press says that the telephone, something no one would do without, has many evils to answer for, among them being the way it cheats humanity out of needed physical exercise. "It will make us all," the Press predicts, "relapse into lazy ways and stay indoors instead of getting out and hustling in the open air. Less 'hello' and more vigorous walking would improve all our healths and give a tonic to our morals and add to our virtues by making us hearty, hale and stalwart."

—o—

The Cedar Rapids Republican regards the military and garrison post at Des Moines a joke. "We do not see it so," says the Decorah Republican. "In times of peace nice, pleasant and healthy quarters are needed for the army that will have to be stationed somewhere. What better place than Iowa?"

—o—

The Cedar Rapids Gazette says that the opposition to the road law is based on the desire to have better roads without paying money or labor for the improvement.

—o—

Dowie declares that any man who votes the ticket democratic is a jackass, and the Webster City Journal suggests that "there are times when Elijah Number Three shows an intelligence which is almost human."

—o—

"In agriculture Iowa," says the Des Moines Capital, "leads all the states in the union, not this year, but every year. It is the state that can win every year that is a permanent winner. Occasionally a state will surpass Iowa in corn product, but the following year such successful state will go in the rear again. In good old Iowa the crops never fail. The floods come, but we have crops just the same. Why should not Iowa brag a little more?"

—o—

That Dubuque man who is 100 years old and has chewed and smoked and used whisky all his life, the Keokuk Gate City points out, is an inmate of the poor house. "Cause and effect aren't so far apart in that case after all," is the Keokuk paper's conclusion.

—o—

It is the Manson Journal's judgment that if Gen. Wood was guilty of anything it was in obeying to the letter every order of the secretary of war.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S RASHNESS.

New Yor Tribune.—President Roosevelt's rashness has come to be a sort of proverb. It is one of those popular attributions which persist quite independent of any basis of fact. The President on any particular occasion may be rash or he may not. It makes no difference. Before he had entered the White House his restless energy had attracted attention, and a large number of people assumed as a matter of course that everything he did would be impetuous. As well try to convince them that Charles the Bold was not invariably bold as that Theodore Roosevelt was not always rash. So when anything happens in the conduct of the government every critic of the policy adopted shouts that it is another piece of the President's rashness, though it may be the essence of conservatism. If the President happens in a conspicuous case merely to do his duty enforcing the laws by subjecting the legality of a railroad merger to the judgment of the supreme court, he makes a rash attack upon property. If he recognizes promptly the establishment of a new government in Panama, again he is rash, and is sure to involve us in complications with Europe, even though European governments approve his course and promptly follow his lead. If he redeems a campaign promise to welcome in Washington a campaign chairman to whom Mr. Hanna had sent him, it is a monstrous indiscretion, because a man is a trades unionist in a disturbed district; though when Mr. Hanna entertains the same man at the Waldorf-Astoria it is a wise and statesmanlike effort to guide the labor party into conservative paths.

—:—

When the administration of this "rash" man is calmly reviewed it is not easy to find evidence of that rashness. He has indeed done many things that have aroused opposition and any president who does anything positive always will. But there is a great difference between positiveness and rashness. His actions, though energetic and quick, have turned out uncommonly well, and won the approval of the American people in a fashion which suggests that they were taken with anything but rashness. If it is rash to enforce law, whether it interferes with schemes of millionaires or labor agitators, there is need of rashness over the whole country. If it is rash to use the influence of the President to bring together warring industrial interests whose self centered struggle menaces innocent thousands, then "blessed are the peacemakers" was said of the rash. If it be rash to guard American interests with decision and keep the peace at Panama, what a line of presidents and secretaries of state have been rash! For nearly three years now President Roosevelt has been running his impetuous and devastating career at the White House, yet we have a remarkably prosperous country, with a government never more respected at home and abroad, and a conservative, money making people strangely happy and free from alarms.

—o—

"Yes, we know that," say the critics. "He has kept himself in check so far. He has to be moderate till he gets a second term. Then he will break loose, and it is not safe to trust him." Well, if Mr. Roosevelt's dangerous rashness which will break out in his second term is to be deduced from his acts in the first, it does not seem to be a particularly terrible thing after all. If it is merely a disposition attributed to him regardless of any manifestation, then the man who can hold that disposition so thoroughly in check through three triyng years of inexperience must be a pretty complete master of his impulses and able to do equally well with riper training. Then his only care will be to make a highly creditable record as president. If he now recognizes the wisdom of moderation enough to exercise what is assumed to be an unnatural self control, there is no reason to fear that such wisdom will suddenly desert him.

AMERICA AND WAR IN THE EAST

Kansas City Journal.—Changes of scene take place in the far east with wonderful rapidity. One day a war cloud hangs low and ominous over Russia and Japan. The next the sun of peace breaks through and the prospects for a harmonious adjustment of differences appear bright. The third day both countries are threatening each other with ultimatums and it looks as if nothing can prevent them from clashing. The last was the condition of things at the most recent reports. "The situation is graver than since the commencement of negotiations," declare the Associated Press dispatches.

It would be superfluous to say that the American people hope the impending conflict will not take place. It would cause terrible losses to the immediate participants, with both of whom this nation is on the most friendly terms, and possibly, although not probably, would involve other great powers. But while, for moral reasons, Americans would sincerely regret to see hostilities commence, they would have more reasons from a material point of view, for regarding their outbreak with complacency than any other nation. Both the warring powers would have to buy arms and munitions, and American factories would stand at least as good a chance of getting the orders to supply them as those of any other country. Probably also both belligerents would have to buy abroad large quantities of provisions, and they could not get them without drawing heavily upon the fields and pastures of the United States.

Besides being in a position to furnish the warring powers with these various commodities, we are happily in a situation to defend ourselves against any aggressions that eigther might try to commit upon our commerce, either while hostilities were on or after they were ended. There would be no repetition during the war of such outrages as we sustained from European nations during the Napoleonic wars. American ships and American goods, we may be sure, would go unmolested wherever the established and recognized principles of international law permit the ships and goods of a neutral to go. And it is equally certain that when peace was made, the might of this country would compel a recognition of its commercial rights in the territory which is the cause of the present dispute. President Roosevelt said in a speech sometime since that the best policy for us to pursue in international affairs is that of "speaking softly and carrying a big stick." The existing situation in the east, and the possibilities with which it is pregnant, show how far he was right. If Japan and Russie do finally fail foul of each other, we shall be glad not only that we have goods to sell them but that we have an efficient navy with which to protect goods in transit, and that we have all the resources of every sort that may be necessary to back up our diplomatists in their efforts to secure and protect our rights while the peace negotiations are pending.

INHUMAN HUMANITY.

Burlington Hawk-Eye.—The inhuman side of our humanity is now and then disclosed to the world in most startling and horrifying circumstances. The latest, and one of the most revolting instances of the lower instinct of man getting the upper hand, is illustrated in the accounts of the wreck of the Duquesne limited on the Baltimore & Ohio near Connellsville, Pa. The robbers were on the scene early, so the account runs, and had secured their booty before the rescuers arrived upon the spot of the catastrophe. The work of tearing the rings off the fingers of the dead, the stripping the corpses of all jewelry of any kind and of money wherever found, was carried on with the rapacious greed of human sharks. The man who could be guilty of such deeds should not live in an enlightened country, but should drag out his days under the lash of a despot or the grinding taxation of an oriental tottering government like Turkey. The land of the free is by far too good a spot on earth for such beings to dwell. The deed is of the nature that even some of our lowest criminals would shrink from doing.

An incident is told of where the better nature exerted itself in a man who was believed to be without much conscience. All day long he rode, a prisoner beside the sheriff, on the train. Towards the twilight the train drew into his own home. He was not to stop there, simply passing through to the penitentiary. But the wife and child were waiting at the depot to see him pass through. He leaned over to the sheriff and asked him something in a low voice. The latter slipped the handcuffs off the prisoner, pulled his big overcoat over him, and then let him meet his family on the platform with his hands free. And although the officer's hand rested on his left elbow, as he greeted his wife and child, yet the added disgrace of the "irons" was not there. A "bad man" he had been. But there was something in him which revolted at his loved ones seeing him manacled.

It would be well nigh impossible to suppose that men guilty of committing such deeds as those at Laurel Run have any such shame springing up in their beings. The very act in itself wipes out all possibility of shame in their makeup.

THE RUSSIAN AS A SOLDIER.

"The Russian soldier, as I saw him during the Boxer campaign, impressed me as being a fatalist of a very practical sort," writes O. K. Davis in the December Everybody's. "If it is his time to lose his life he will lose it, and there is little use in trying to save it. He might as well go to one place as another, and it makes no difference whether he goes into a fight or keeps out of it. He travels the line of least resistance, and from this develops a blind, but often unintelligent obedience. That sort of man makes a dangerous fighting machine.

"With all these good qualities, however, there are others not so attractive. Big, strong, patient of toil and hardship, he is also clusmy, stupid, and very slow—a serious fault in fighting men. There was a good exhibition of the Russian lack of speed the day the Pekin relief column marched from Mahto to Crang-chia-wan. For that morning it had been arranged that a Russian battery and battalion of infantry should form part of the advance guard with the Japanese whom the regular formation of the column placed in the lead. The Japanese were doing their full share, but the Russians could not or would not keep the pace. After repeated attempts to get them to do so Japan was obliged to ask Russia to withdraw its men and give room to the Japanese so that the required speed could be made. The Russians halted and formed beside the road while the Japanese infantry went by them on the double, and the battery at a trot. From that time until the day's distance had been made, there was no more trouble about the failure of the advance guard to maintain contact with the enemy."

STOP THE DESECRATION.

Chicago Record Herald.—Save the very young, there are no people in this city who have not stood in the presence of death and experienced or sympathized with the agony of grief that it causes.

So sacred is the house of mourning into which death has entered, so universal is the appeal which the death sorrow makes, that the roughest and most degraded human creatures are softened and awed by the distressing visitation, and even they can feel for others who are lamenting the loss of their nearest and dearest. Man becomes a brute indeed when he is insensible to such bereavement and the dread reminder of our common mortality.

Yet we have here today a revolting contrast to this community of sorrow. "Business" takes precedence of decency and the most sacred emotions. While livery drivers and their employers wrangle the road to the grave is menaced, the tenderest sentiment is profaned, and grief is aggravated by mean and perplexing complications of the strike.

The public had already been excessively irritated by labor troubles. Its patience is now completely exhausted. This desecration must stop, whatever the facts as to the business controversy may be. And where the assistance of the authorities is needed to that end it should be given with a will that must make the mobbing of funerals a painfully instructive as well as a sorry memory to persons engaged in that most despicable act of lawlessness.

NO ASSET CURRENCY.

Omaha Bee.—Senator Allison is of the opinion that no change in the present monetary system is likely to be made by the Fifty-eighth congress. In regard to the proposed asset currency, he said he did not see that so radical a change of the laws in respect to circulation is possible, as long as our present system of direct government issues prevail, "as it would result in a large expansion of the total volume of currency and this expansion cannot be checked by means of rapid redemption, because there is no motive to press redemption." What was further said by Mr. Allison in reference to this proposition made it entirely clear that he is opposed to it, under existing conditions. It is perhaps needless to say that he has undoubtedly given the matter most careful consideration and his high standing as an authority on financial questions gives great weight to his opinion regarding the asset currency proposition.

While it is extremely probable that no change will be made in the monetary system by the present congress, yet there will be an effort to make some modifications in existing laws. Several bills have been introduced in the house, one by Representative Hill, which proposes to make certain changes in the present system that are thought to be desirable. It is believed that if there is any currency legislation this bill will be the basis of it. It is stated that perhaps the measure might pass the house, but there is hardly a possibility of its being passed by the senate. The chief provisions of the measure are those permitting the deposit of customs receipts in depository banks and removing the limitation of $3,000,000 per month on the retirement of national bank note circulation. There is little or no opposition to the first of these provision, but there is strong objection to the latter, Secretary Shaw taking the view that the removal of the limitation on the withdrawal of bank note circulation might result in the banks retiring circulation at times when it would be most needed.

The present congress will do well to let the currency question rest. The business interests of the country are not asking for any change, the monetary situation is sound and satisfactory and the only effect of legislation at this time would be to disturb it. It is reassuring to hear from Senator Allison that there is not likely to be any currency legislation.

SENATOR HOAR AND PANAMA.

Chicago Tribune.—The isthmus is an independent state. Its government has been recognized by this country, by France, Germany, Russia, and Italy. It will continue to be independent. The United States is bound and has the right under the treaty of 1846 to keep traffic open across the isthmus and prevent fighting there. The United States will discharge this duty and avail itself of this right; therefore Panama will not be subjugated by Colombia. The new republic possesses the canal strip, and offers to relinquish it to us on terms highly advantageous to both contracting parties. What good will it do us to refuse the offer? None, but a great deal of harm. What good will it do the commerce of the world if the offer were refused? None and a great deal of harm.

"All selfish reasons," says Senator Hoar. What good will it do Colombia for America to refuse Panama's offer? None in the world. The rejection of the treaty would not affect the political relations of Panama with Colombia or any other country. Panama would remain free whether the canal treaty were rejected or not. As long as the United States prevents fighting on the isthmus, the isthmian towns of Colon and Panama will remain in their present hands—the hands of the Panamanians. As long as the cities remain part of the isthmian state that state will exist. So the rejection of the canal treaty would have no effect whatever in restoring things to the political shape they were in.

To accomplish that would require the United States' full permission for fighting on the isthmus and probably also this country's armed intervention against the present Panama government, which is friendly, in favor of the Colombian government, which is unfriendly. Even to Senator Hoar's highly emotional and unpractical mind that must seem a reductio ad absurdum. Yet it is precisely the conclusion of his logic. Senator Hoar has three courses of action open to him. If he desires to see Panama remain independent, let him be for the canal treaty, which will benefit that little country and this big one. If he wants to see Panama restored to the corrupt Colombian military dictatorship which has never cared a depreciated peso for that province, let him introduce a resolution declaring war against the little new country. If he wishes to have Panama and Colombia fight it out and the stronger win, let him persuade congress to direct the President to take the necessary steps for the abrogation of the treaty of 1846. Senator Hoar has a choice among three courses, unless he is content merely to talk himself out and then subside without doing anything. The first course is the wisest, fairest, and most satisfactory. Probably, therefore, Senator Hoar will choose one of the other two.

A SUGGESTION.

New York Tribune.—Why should not our democratic friends hold their national convention in New Orleans next year, or in some other city below Mason and Dixon's line? They do not expect many electoral votes for their standard bearers from any of the northern states. They might enjoy more hilarity and be harassed by fewer dismal apprehensions in the balmy and soothing atmosphere of Dixie land while they are selecting their candidates for president and vice president than in the less congenial and encouraging environment of the northern regions of the republic.

GROWTH OF POSTAL BUSINESS.

New York Sun.—At the close of the fiscal year of 1903 there were 2,935 railway mail routes in use by the postoffice department, with an aggregate length of 192,852 miles. The cost of transportation, or "annual rate of expenditure," was $36,607,524. Twenty-six years ago the annual rate of expenditure was $8,463,197, or less than a quarter of the rate last year and only about a fifth of the amount which the department will ask for the fiscal year ending with next June. Moreover, $5,279,323 was expended in 1902-03 for railway postoffice cars, and the aggregate of all transportation costs of 1902-03 was $65,186,715. The estimate for 1904-05 of $75,128,000 is a striking demonstration of the rapid growth of the postal business of the United States.

TOO INFINITESIMAL.

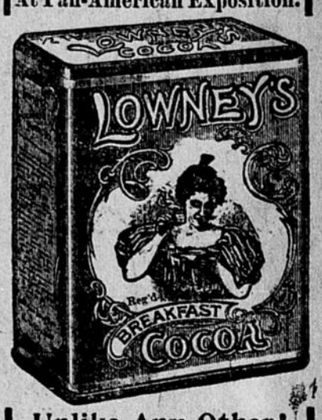
Hampton Chronicle.—At the tax sale in this county last week the taxes were paid on one piece of land for the one billionth part of an acre. We understand the taxes on the piece was about $70, and if the owner of the land is wise he will never redeem the tax certificate. It will take a magnifying glass to discover the billionth part of an acre, and it would seem that $70 was a pretty good price for that much of dirt. A billionth part of an acre sold for taxes would hardly make a flaw in the title to a forty-acre tract.

WE DON'T NEED THEM.

Sioux City Journal.—"For the first time in my life I have to confess that I am ashamed of the attitude of my country," declares Senator Morgan. If he can find a country that he isn't ashamed of, he might emigrate.

Gold Medal

At Pan-American Exposition.



Unlike Any Other!

The full flavor, the delicious quality, the absolute *Purity* of Lowney's Breakfast Cocoa distinguish it from all others.

No "treatment" with alkalies; no adulteration with flour, starch or ground cocoa shells; nothing but the nutritive and digestible product of the choicest Cocoa Beans.

Ask Your Dealer for It.

A DAY OFF MAKES DIFFERENCE.

Morrell & Co.'s Killing Shows Decrease Over Previous Week.

Owing to the fact that no work was done at the plant of John Morrell & Co. on Christmas day, the killing of hogs for last week showed a decrease. The entire number of porkers slaughtered at the plant last week was 12,800, a decrease over the previous week's killing of 5,200. The week ending December 20, however, was an exceptional one for killing.

East End Items.

Charles Bullock, a student at the State Agricultural college at Ames, is spending the holiday vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Bullock.

J. Mitchell of this city, and friend, A. W. Dome, of Louisville, Ky., were visitors at the plant Thursday.

R. R. Ramsell, a law student at the State university at Iowa City, is spending the holiday vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Ramsell.

M. Estic of the killing gang, has been off duty on account of illness since last Monday.

The children of the Riverview Mission are grateful to Dr. W. C. Newell for candies and oranges and to B. Hermann for a Christmas tree, which they so kindly donated Christmas.

S. J. Rader of Missouri, is in the city on a short visit with his daughter, Mrs. John Crawford, who resides on North street.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Allen of Stockport, are here visiting at the home of Mrs. Allen's sister, Mrs. Daniel Duree, on Walnut avenue.

M. L. Toland was taken very ill last Monday evening from eating canned fruit. He is reported to be improving.

W. C. Stewart, who for some time was clerk in the chief engineer's office, has been transferred to Supt. Bullock's office.

A letter received here from Cedar Rapids a few days ago reported that Mrs. W. Pevonka was dead. Mr. Pevonka was foreman here for the Oppenheimer Casing company for some time and Mrs. Pevonka was well known here.

Lon Tibbitts, who drives one of the teams at the plant, is ill at his home near Riverview. Mr. Tibbitts, is improving, however.

J. Arnold who is employed in the cooper shop, has returned to his work, after a business visit at Canton, Miss.

Mrs. Wm. Parkinson, who resides on East Main street, was a visitor in Mt. Pleasant Wednesday.

B. Brittain, superintendent of the White Bros. Packing Co., Ltd., of Stratford, Ontario, was here for a short time last week, a guest of T. D. Foster.

Harry Salmon of the green meat cellar, is off duty a few days visiting with friends and relatives in Red Oak and Shenandoah.

Charles Swanson is off duty on account of illness in his family.

Wm. Huff, striker in the blacksmith shop, who has been ill for a few days past, has returned to his home in Fairfield to recuperate.

Miss Ruth E. Byers of Chicago, niece of Mrs. W. Hormel, is a guest at the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Hormel.

Dr. Eustic Baker of Dayton, O., is the latest addition to the government inspectors. Dr. Baker arrived last Monday and commenced his duties immediately.

How's This?

We offer one hundred dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY, & CO., Props., Toledo, O.

We the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

YOUNG MAN'S DEATH.

Berry Lester, Aged 29, Passes Away at Home on Mechanic Street.

From Tuesday's Daily.

Berry Lester, aged 29 years, passed away this morning at 1 o'clock, at his home, 729 West Mechanic street. The funeral arrangements are not yet completed.

25 CTS. PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION