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THE WEATHER.

Washington, April 2.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Increasing cloudiness and probably destructive local storms; south winds, shifting to west; cooler Saturday evening.

For Missouri: Fair, followed by local thunder storms Saturday afternoon; southeast winds; warmer in southeastern and cooler in northwestern portion.

For Kansas: Local thunderstorms; southeast winds, shifting to north; cooler.

Stations.	Bar.	T'p 7 pm	Pre.	W'th'r.
Bismarck, N.D.	30.20	36	T	Rain
Des Moines, Ia.	30.04	54	.00	PtCldy
Duluth, Minn.	30.28	36	T	Cloudy
Galveston, Tex.	29.80	70	T	Cloudy
Helena, Mont.	30.18	30	T	Snow
Kansas City, Mo.	29.91	67	.00	Clear
New Orleans, La.	29.98	66	T	Rain
St. Louis, Mo.	30.06	58	.00	Clear
St. Paul, Minn.	30.16	42	.18	Cloudy
Salt Lake, U.	30.06	40	.01	Cloudy
Springfield, Mo.	29.92	54	.00	Clear

THE DESTRUCTION BY FLOODS.

People who live remote from lowland rivers can have little perception of the tremendous loss and the far-reaching distress visited upon those who live along such watercourses. The present floods of the Mississippi have already wrought such havoc that it is impossible to make a reliable estimate of the area inundated and the consequent destruction of property and infliction of suffering. It is thought, however, that this phenomenal rise of the Mississippi will, before it is abated, be the most disastrous in the history of that country. The greatest previous flood was that of the Ohio, in February of 1883, when the loss was $3,000,000, and when 24,000 people were made homeless. There were destructive floods in the Ohio valley for four successive years—1881, 1882, 1883 and 1884.

The most terrible flood in the United States was that in the Conemaugh valley, which resulted from the breaking of a great dam above Johnstown, almost destroying that thriving city, and causing a loss of $10,000,000 and 2,142 lives.

Although the dangers to life in the overflow of the lowlands can never be so great as in the breaking of artificial reservoirs along the precipitous mountain streams, the possibilities of property destruction are even greater. The spread of the flood is almost unlimited in such regions as the Lower Mississippi country, and it is not impossible that there may come a flood that will wipe out many of the thriving cities and towns of that country, unless they are given more reliable protection.

AS A HORRIBLE EXAMPLE.

It is apparent that no immediate harm can come of the persistent fight of the obstructionists against park improvements, and it is just possible that the unlimited scope given the kickers may result in ultimate good. The hearing of arguments on both sides was so full and so explicit that it became necessary for every man who was fighting the city's park plan to show his hand. It has been demonstrated to every unprejudiced and conscientious mind that the opposition to parks has been inspired by selfish interests only.

Although the weakness and narrowness of these protests are even now apparent to all, they will be much more conspicuous in after years—when the city shall have an elaborate system of finished parks, extensive in area, beautiful in design and unique in topography. Then citizens and visitors will wonder when they are reminded that these adornments were fought by certain men who posed as the friends of the people while they were really endeavoring to delay and defeat these improvements so necessary to the city's progress and growth.

These same men, or others, actuated by similar motives, will rise again to impede, if possible, further improvements. They will insist upon the right of petition and will have their hearing. Then it will be appropriate and effective to recall the uprising of kickers in 1897 and show the benefits, the beauties and the comforts that would have been denied the city had the kickers had their way then. If the futile wail of the obstructionist shall become a healthful example for the instruction of future administrations, then the mossback and the barnacle may have been of some service to their city in spite of themselves.

THE BIG MARCH SURPLUS.

At the close of March, 1896, there was a deficit of $2,253,000 in the government's revenues. At the close of the corresponding month this year there is a surplus of $9,304,665. This is a gratifying and refreshing change. It is an augury of better times under the new administration. The people were promised that when the Republican party returned to power the deficits which had piled up so regularly and rapidly under Democratic rule should cease. This looks like an earnest of the promise's fulfillment.

As a matter of fact, however, the Republican administration can only indirectly and incidentally be credited with this agreeable showing. The increase of revenue which changed the customary monthly deficit to a surplus was derived from customs duties. As the same tariff law that produced the deficits is still in operation, the increase of customs receipts could not have resulted from a change of tariff, for there has as yet been none. It is the result of the zeal of importers to evade higher duties by bringing in large quantities of merchandise before the Dingley bill could become operative. The fact that the new law is to be retroactive will in all probability put a damper on the importers' zeal, and it is quite possible that the showing at the end of April may be much less favorable.

It will be but a short time, however, until the new tariff legislation will be in full force and effect, and increases of the revenue thereafter will be properly placed to the credit of the party that enacted it. Owing to the activity of importers during the last month, these increases may not be immediately apparent, but before summer is over a steady and healthy rise in the volume of revenue will be seen.

It may be safely said that the days of deficits are at an end. By this time next year there will be sufficient revenue not only in the government's exchequer, but in the pockets of the people.

PLIGHT OF THE RAILROADS.

The real quarrel which the people have with the railroads is not on account of high rates, but on account of discriminations. Considered as a whole the railroads are not exacting too much pay from the people for services performed. What Kansas City and every other injured point complains of is that the cost of transportation is not distributed fairly; that some localities are given advantage over others; that some shippers get better rates than others and that the freight tariffs are not constructed upon a just and equitable basis.

The statement that as a whole rates are not too high is certainly borne out by the records. During the past three years nearly 50,000 miles of track, under a capitalization of $3,000,000,000, has been sold under foreclosure. Over 70 per cent of the stock of railways paid no dividend during 1896. The income of all roads from Chicago West, including more than half of the mileage of the whole country, did not produce enough last year to pay their fixed charges and the cost of operation. It is true that in other times the charges for freight transportation have been extortionately high, but it is with the present we are dealing.

No one will question the right of the railroads to earn not only operating expenses and fixed charges, but also a reasonable return upon a fair valuation. But Kansas City has the right to complain when it is forced to pay more than its just proportion of an income which will accomplish all of these things. Under a system of pooling and discriminations it has been bled more than its share to make good the losses elsewhere. It is, therefore, no wonder that Kansas City welcomed the decision of the supreme court and hopes from it some abatement of the wrongs it has suffered.

In the discussion which has followed this decision The Journal has contended that while the people may welcome as a boon the destruction of the pools which have resulted in such rank discriminations, they are not blind to the inefficiency, in certain directions, of the law under which this decision was made. Traffic agreements are a necessary adjunct to modern railroading. We do not mean those traffic agreements which result in sapping the life blood out of trade in one direction for the purpose of building it up in another, but those agreements which provide for through rates, an interchange of business and cooperative services to the people. As the supreme court has interpreted this law it is pretty generally conceded that agreements of every sort must go by the board—the good with the bad. In writing the opinion Mr. Justice Peckham used this language:

"We are asked to hold that the act of congress excepts contracts which are not in unreasonable restraint of trade, and which only keep rates up to a reasonable price, notwithstanding the language of the act makes no such exception. In other words, we are asked to read into the act by way of judicial legislation an exception that is not placed there by the lawmaking branch of the government, and this is to be done upon the theory that the impolicy of such legislation is so clear that it cannot be supposed congress intended the natural import of the language it used. This we cannot and ought not to do. That impolicy is not so clear, nor are the reasons for the exception so potent as to permit us to interpolate an exception into the language of the act, and to thus materially alter its meaning and effect. It may be that the policy evidenced by the passage of the act itself will, if carried out, result in disaster to the roads and in failure to secure the advantages sought from such legislation. Whether that will be the result or not we do not know and cannot predict. The considerations are, however, not for us. If the act ought to read as contended for by defendants, congress is the body to amend it, and not this court, by a process of judicial legislation wholly unjustifiable."

Between the lines it is easy to read that the court foresaw some evils which would follow its decision, and in suggesting them Mr. Justice Peckham has suggested the remedy. This remedy lies in amendments both to the anti-trust and interstate commerce laws, through which useful co-operative agreements may be entered into. At the beginning of the discussion The Journal believed that this could best be accomplished by enlarging the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commissioners so that they would be empowered to sit over and control traffic agreements, and it has so far discovered no reason for altering its opinion. Senator Chandler's proposal to establish a commission of forty-five men to adjust rates between localities and shippers is entirely too cumbersome. The railroad companies should be permitted to make their own rates and tariff sheets along lines of fairness and justness, which are supervised by the government.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Professor William L. Wilson thinks the Dingley bill is a very humorous production. If it fulfills expectations, it will undoubtedly put some broad smiles on the faces of workingmen.

By the way, there is nothing humorous about the measure which bears Professor Wilson's name. It is a distressingly solemn piece of legislation, especially in its results. The country has worn a woe-begone countenance ever since it went into operation.

"For once the Populists are right," remarks the Washington Post. The esteemed Post should look again. It has certainly been imposed on.

Parson Payne was up before the referee counted ten, and gave the Atchison spider several stinging uppercuts before the round closed. It is anybody's fight yet.

"By steadfastly looking over the head of the financial question, Mr. McKinley manages not to see it," says the Memphis Commercial-Appeal. The financial question that immediately confronts Mr. McKinley is the one of providing revenues for the government. This question he is looking straight in the face and doing his best to settle promptly and speedily. The Republican platform promised to maintain the gold standard. The gold standard, we believe, is being maintained.

A member of the Illinois legislature imagines he can suppress the gas trust. Merely a pipe dream, of course.

Bicyclist Gladstone is now 88 years old, and everybody hopes he will make a century run.

An appropriate name is wanted for Greater New York. Why not call it Hully Gee?

The New York Journal observes that "English dislike of the United States senate is becoming quite marked." The Journal might have added that American dislike of that body has already become so.

Mr. Goos, of Pittsburg, is in Washington wanting an office. It is hoped the president has Goos down on his list, as well as in his pillow.

Senator Allen will have to wait till the Populists have a majority in the supreme court before his theory that the protective policy is unconstitutional will become operative. And when that time comes it will not matter much what else happens to the country.

The senate is preparing to take up the tariff bill with considerable vigor. Teller, Stewart and the two Jones already have their speeches on the free and unlimited coinage of silver written, and other senators are equally well equipped. It is thought that the first five pages of the bill can be disposed of by the first of May or the last of June.

"The angel troubled the pool," observes a Chicago contemporary. That may have been the way eighteen hundred years ago. It is the supreme court that troubles it now.

The Hon. J. Sterling Morton announces that this government will have to retrench or go to ruin. The Hon. J. Sterling is unable to find a single instance in history of a government long surviving under a pernicious and profligate system of free garden seeds.

Canada insists that she will punish us for our tariff policy. When the punishment is inflicted it would be well for Canada to call our attention to the fact or we might overlook it. We expect to be very busy over here under the new tariff.

In his war on civil service reform we trust General Grosvenor has taken due precautions against overconfidence.

According to a prominent politician, President McKinley can say "no" so pleasantly that officeseekers are glad to be refused by him. The look of gladness, however, fades away before any of them gets as far west as Kansas City.

Under a ruling by First Assistant Postmaster General Heath, "offensive partisanship" will not be regarded as sufficient ground for the dismissal of postmasters unless it can be shown to have been detrimental to the public service. This is a hard ruling for Republicans. Mr. Cleveland's postmasters will remain in office under the civil service law, and yet when they flagrantly violate that law they will not be punished. The Democrats are out of power, but they are not at all out of luck.

MISSOURI POINTS.

Savannah, up in Andrew county, prohibits ball playing, marbles, etc., by ordinance, just as it does craps.

* * *

Sasseen, the ex-preacher convicted of larceny in Gentry county, last week, has carried his case up to the Kansas City court of appeals. He is 70 years old, and during his pulpit career has been the pastor of Methodist churches in Stanberry, Chillicothe, Maryville and Jefferson City.

* * *

"An animal of mephitic odors" is one of the latest pet names applied by one of the rival candidates to a competitor in the hot stuff race for the school commissionership in Atchison county.

* * *

The ratio between cash and Pop credit in Burlington Junction is 66 to 1, taking as an indication the fact that the editor of the local paper of that faith is offering for 50 cents a $33 bill against his own central committee for the organ's services during the campaign.

* * *

A hail storm in Atchison county will cut no ice hereafter. A local mutual company for insurance against its ravages is being organized there.

* * *

"Fad socials," entertainments in connection with which some peculiarity of the attire of each person present is supposed to indicate the wearer's pet fad, are in vogue in Carthage.

* * *

The residence to be erected in Carthage this summer by Colonel Bill Phelps, the efficient head of the "influential" department of the Missouri Pacific in this state, is to cost $25,000, and will be constructed entirely of Carthage stone. Few better things have happened, in Colonel Bill's opinion, than the recent legislature.

* * *

Miss Tillie Gross, of Maryville, for several years court reporter for Judge Anthony's circuit, and well known throughout Northwest Missouri, died last week in New Mexico, whither she had gone some weeks previous in the hope of benefit to her failing health.

* * *

It is claimed there that the adoption of the cash system by the merchants of Clearmont has driven two-thirds of the town's former trade to other points.

* * *

A Gentry county grand jury regarded the recent killing of Morris by Alcott as so clearly a justifiable homicide that it refused to indict the latter.

* * *

Sedalia's Y. M. C. A. went into the hands of a receiver Thursday with liabilities amounting to $2,100, and no available assets.

* * *

Nat Sisson, a Maryville real estate dealer, claims the distinction of having, as General Custer's bugler, blown the last bugle charge of the civil war at Appomattox, on April 9, 1865.

* * *

Arrangements are said to have been completed whereby a new hotel cost a quarter of a million will be erected in St. Joseph this season, provided the citizens put up a bonus of $30,000 previous to April 15.

* * *

John H. Workizer, a Joplin boy, will be one of the sixty-seven graduates at the West Point Military academy this year.

* * *

Colonel Kemp writes from Washington to his Chillicothe friends that he is camping faithfully on the trail of that territorial judgeship with reasonable hopes of success. The president was "very courteous" when the colonel called upon him.

KANSAS TOPICS.

Ed Madison said to Topics yesterday that he was a candidate for lieutenant governor and that Mike Sutton was not a candidate for governor. "That story," said Madison, "was started by some fellows who wanted a cheap way of getting their own names in the papers."

* * *

A colored man at Hutchinson wrote to Senator Thurston about the bill the senator had introduced for the pensioning of ex-slaves. With almost brutal frankness Senator Thurston wrote back that he had introduced the bill by request and that no freedman need deceive himself by believing for a moment that it would ever become a law.

* * *

Anyway, the mugwumps cannot charge that Tom Ryan got his appointment through reward for political services rendered.

* * *

The younger political element in Kansas will regret to learn that C. M. Sheldon, of Osage county, contemplates going into business in one of the Northwest states or territories. He has already arranged to move his family to Kansas City and has severed his business connections in Osage county.

* * *

There is no human sentiment which can preserve itself as long as the desire for revenge. Fourteen years ago the division shops of the Santa Fe were removed from Ellinwood to Nickerson. Now they are to be removed from Nickerson to Newton, and the Ellinwood people are holding a regular jubilee over the misfortunes of their neighbors.

* * *

This talk about the inability of the officers of the law to enforce the prohibitory law is of the quality known to old-fashioned people as balderdash. In Fort Scott the county has, single handed and alone, closed up every joint, in face of the fact that they are regularly licensed by Governor Leedy's police commissioners.

* * *

The probate judge of Bourbon county performed two double weddings one day last week, under circumstances which are very unusual. In one case father and son married mother and daughter, and in the other mother and son married people who were not related.

* * *

Judge Tarsney came in from holding court in the western part of his Oklahoma district the other day and told a story which he considers a good one. A fellow was before the court charged with cattle stealing, and when the case was called the prisoner was brought forward and asked if he was ready for trial, to which he answered that he didn't know whether he was or not, as he had no lawyer. The judge then said to him: "I have appointed two of the best attorneys of the bar to defend you; are you ready for trial?" The prisoner scratched his head and said: "Your honor, if you will allow me the privilege of trading one of the lawyers for a witness, I will be ready for trial in fifteen minutes."

* * *

A writer in the current number of one of the Eastern monthlies speaks of a visit he made to Hays City in the early days. He says: "I naturally felt alarmed at finding myself surrounded by a crowd of rough looking men, whose occupation was gambling, and I took the precaution to avoid robbery by placing what money I had with me in a belt about my person."

To those who are familiar with the gambler as he flourished in Western Kansas during the cowboy days the fears of this Eastern writer will sound ludicrous. The gambler was not a thief in the ordinary sense of the term. His honor was sensitive and his respect for property phenomenal. By some mysterious process of reasoning he had convinced himself that an unfair advantage at cards was not dishonesty. It was a business in his estimation where every man must expect duplicity, and where superior ability for cheating stood in the same relation as superior skill or virtue to other avocations of life. He would spend time and money to return a thousand dollars which he found in the road to its rightful owner, but from the same man without compunction would strip the last cent with a false faro box.

Indeed, it may be said with truth that in the rough and ready settlements of Western Kansas larceny was a thing unknown. No one thought of bringing in the ax or taking down the clothesline until after civilization had made its appearance. Topics has known Simon Motz, the well known early day merchant of this selfsame Hays City, to throw open his store to travelers whom he had never seen before, and who made their beds upon the store counters within reach of any portion of a $30,000 stock of goods. It never occurred to Motz that he might be robbed, for robbery was a thing practically unknown. There were murders a-plenty in those days, but they were not murders for gain. Neither can it be said that they were the murders of civilization, for they took on more the aspect of duels, where honor compelled an even show or a fighting chance. Most of the killings in Hays City took place over woman, and were therefore in their nature chivalrous. The Western Kansas desperado as a rule was not respectable, but he had a rough, uncultured element of fairness in his formidableness. As pathos so closely approaches humor, so fierceness may cover an unsurpassing gentleness. Topics once saw the gamblers of Hays City reverently remove their hats and pile $1,500 into the laps of three Sisters of Mercy who had visited the town from Leavenworth. In character the Western Kansas gambler was somewhat typified by Colonel John Hay's Jim Bludso:

He weren't no saint—these ingineers
  Is all pretty much alike—
One wife in Natchez-under-the-Hill,
  And another here in Pike;
A keerless man in his talk was Jim,
  And an awkward hand in a row,
But he never flunked and he never lied,
  I reckon he never knowed how.

* * *

"The knockout blow delivered by Champion Ingalls upon Champion McCabe," said 'Gene Ware to Topics yesterday, "seemed to come about in this way: The bishop leaned back, sort of like, while a bone, supposed to be his jawbone, visibly protruded. Champion Ingalls, seeing his opportunity, delivered a violent pneumatic jab just below the bone, which seems to have landed in the vicinity of the neck. Champion McCabe fell upon one knee, being unaccustomed to falling on both, and showed signs of great agony. The referee counted seventeen and the bishop rose to his feet and said the pain he felt was not the Payne who should have felt it, and that the wrong man got it in the neck. Whereupon Champion Ingalls wiped the gore from his gloves and sold it to a sugar refinery for eleven dollars."

* * *

Professor Bumpercorn to the contrary notwithstanding, the geological papers which have been issued by Professor Haworth, of the Kansas state university are of surpassing interest and value. Those not of the student class have little conception of the empire which lies beneath our feet. The story of the rocks is as emotional as a melodrama, as entrancing as a romance and as thrilling as a tragedy. The most audacious imagination can conjure up no more marvelous things than are revealed in the science of geology. The Arabian Nights or Gulliver's Travels are no greater tax upon the credulity. The strange and monstrous birds and beasts, the hideous reptiles, the quaint fishes, the wondrous animal creations of every sort, are almost past the belief of the unlearned mind, and the story of how the earth's surface was built up, layer by layer, is as strange and fascinating as it appears to be incredible.

Professor Bumpercorn's latest grievance was based on the statement by Professor Haworth that at one period the Missouri and Kansas rivers were a succession of huge waterfalls which have been worn away until the present base level has been reached. In approaching the study of geology the student must first wrest from his mind the idea of time. In geology the element of time is eliminated—at least such time as may be measured and bounded. The geologists frankly tell us that they do not know by the application of their measuring rule whether ten millions or four hundred millions of years have elapsed in bringing the earth to its present stage of development. Professor Haworth makes no pretense of saying when these huge waterfalls were at the zenith of their glory. But he does demonstrate that at one time a cataract existed at or near Kansas City which had a height equal to the bluffs as they now stand and a bottom which was much lower than the bed of the present river, for it has filled up as the river sought a level. At Lawrence, too, there was a waterfall which dropped from the present height of Mount Oread to a level lower than the present bed of the Kansas river. These falls were perhaps 300 feet in height, and, as Professor Haworth says, must have surpassed Niagara in grandeur.

To account for this geologists tell us that at one time the surface of Kansas and Missouri was nearly a dead level. The streams started along certain synclinal troughs and began their work of cutting. As the earth descends to the east, huge ridges of hard limestone are brought to the surface. Beneath each of them, like jelly in a jelly cake, is a bed of shale. Had the earth been removed the appearance would have been similar to that of a stairway—the horizontal portion representing the limestone ledges and the vertical divisions the shale. The shale washed away readily, while the harder limestone resisted the action of the water. At the edge of each limestone ledge, therefore, a chasm was scooped out into which the water dropped with constantly increasing velocity. When the shale had all been washed away to a lower ledge of limestone, the erosion stopped in that direction and commenced on the limestone ridge over which the water was pouring from above. Through ages and ages these limestone ridges were ground down until the river reached a base level and flowed on with the sluggishness which now marks its progress. While the ridges were being washed down the holes in the shale which had been scooped out were gradually filling up, and so, from both directions, the leveling process was in progress.

But think of the beauty and grandeur of the scene about Kansas City when the Missouri was pouring its yellow tide over a 300-foot waterfall! Think also of what a particularly pretty pickle Colonel Crisp would have found himself in in the matter of building a fish ladder!

Labor Combinations and the Law.

From the Boston Herald.

In the minority opinion of the supreme court in the Trans-Missouri Freight Association case, its author, Justice White, says that the remedy intended to be accomplished by the anti-trust act was to shield against the danger of contracts or combinations by the few against the interests of the many and to the detriment of freedom. He regards the construction now given to the act by the majority of the court as striking down the interest of the many to the advantage and benefit of the few. What he calls the construction which reads the rule of reason out of the statute embraces within its inhibition every contract or combination by which workingmen seek peaceably to better their condition. However this may be, there never has been any doubt that the Sherman act applied to combinations of labor, and it has, indeed, been the gravest subject of complaint against the act that the labor unions appeared to be the only kind of combinations that it was able to reach. This branch of the subject was pretty fully examined in the argument on the Debs case in December, 1894. It was then pointed out that the discussion accompanying the passage of the bill through congress indicated that neither house had any thought of legislating against combinations of workingmen, formed for whatever purpose. But it was also shown that this method of interpreting a legislative act is not followed implicitly by the courts, and, in point of fact, only one judge of the lower federal courts has ever intimated his dissent from the idea that the anti-trust law affected labor combinations.

When a suit was brought five years ago, under the provisions of the act, for an injunction restraining certain draymen on strike in New Orleans from interfering with interstate commerce, District Judge Billings, in granting the injunction, said: "The question simply is, Do these facts establish a case within the statute? It seems to me this question is tantamount to the question, Could there be a case under the statute?" This order was affirmed by the United States circuit court of appeals for the Fifth circuit, and another judge of the same circuit held that a rule of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, requiring its members to strike under certain circumstances, was a violation of the act. Circuit Judge Putnam has dissented from this view, but it has been concurred in by all the other circuit judges who have had occasion to deal with the question. Circuit Judge Woods, in granting the order of injunction against Eugene V. Debs and other officers of the American Railway Union, pointed out that the legal character of this conspiracy and the responsibility of its participants was exactly the same as though it had been formed by other palace car companies for the purpose of gaining control of the sleeping car business of the United States by excluding the Pullman cars. Labor, in short, as well as capital, is prevented under the Sherman act from combining for the restraint or hindrance of interstate commerce.

It is easy, however, to overrate the importance of the bearing of these decisions, now virtually approved by a majority of the supreme court, on the conduct of trades unions. The court has already held that it has no power to interfere with a monopoly in manufacture, and that it is only when the instrumentalities of interstate commerce are affected that the act of congress comes into play. But if the whole question of manufacturing combinations be relegated to the police power of the states, the labor combinations whose sphere of action is similarly circumscribed must be held to be a matter of state supervision also. In the New Orleans case, there was a distinct interference with interstate and international commerce, as there was in the Debs case, growing out of the Chicago strike. But, except where such interference or obstruction is proved, it is difficult to say what terrors the Sherman act can have for combinations of workingmen formed for perfectly legitimate purposes. We suspect that the necessities of argument have carried Justice White somewhat too far in this connection, and that the construction placed upon the statute by the majority of the court does not "read the rule of reason" out of it so completely as he seems to believe.

Senate and House.

From the New York Herald.

They are at present two object lessons in parliamentary practice, and from two opposite and contrary points of view. Each in its own way is an example of legislative eccentricity. Each shows the country how legislative business ought not to be done.

The senate, as has long been seen, is dependent upon the will of a small minority of its members. If they object, no bill can be passed. They talk any measure to death or filibuster against any measure they dislike. There are no rules. There is no previous question, no closure, no machinery by which a vote can be taken or the will of the majority made to prevail over a resolute and unscrupulous minority. The arbitration treaty is an instance. The life has been talked out of it during the last two months, and on a subject of highest importance on which the country is eager for a decision the senate has shown itself dilatory, feeble and paralytic.

The tariff proceeding in the house is an instance of the other extreme—an instance, that is, of the absolute tyranny of a majority, led by a speaker who has probably unequaled ability in the chair and certainly unequaled audacity.

The American and the Roman Senates.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

Interesting as is the reference to the Roman senate made by Senator Turpie in a recent speech, it is not entirely happy, nor is that body a pattern for the American senate of to-day.

The Roman senate was representative of the patricians only, and in its constitution more resembled the English house of lords than any other modern legislative body. In its early days it was indeed the embodiment of Roman public virtue and of patriotism, but in time it grew corrupt and became the willing tool of the later consuls and of the emperors. It was long the seat of arrogance, of luxury and of pride, and it finally betrayed its country and yielded to despotism. In its long decadence, although pretending to equal power with the emperors, it merely registered their decrees, and the senators became the subsidized creatures of their imperial patrons.

The first cause of the fall of the Roman senate was its unwillingness to listen to the voice of the people and its haughty treatment of their demands. Then the people gladly turned to Caesar, preferring his dictatorship to the senate's arbitrary insolence. Senator Turpie refers to an instance where the senate forced Caesar when he was consul to rescind an order he had made for the arrest of a too loquacious senator. He also refers to the secret sessions of that body. He might also have told how Caesar compelled the senate to publish the proceedings of its secret sessions. Such a parallel as Senator Turpie has instituted is by no means gratifying to American pride and patriotism. We do not care to see a body that has long been respected and admired by the whole world for its self-restraint and dignity compared with that body whose corruption was the beginning of the fall of Rome.

There is too much evidence of decadence in the United States senate to be entirely pleasing to the people, but that we believe to be temporary. With the passing of certain of the older members and the introduction of younger and more progressive minds, the American senate will at no distant day again take its place among the foremost legislative bodies in the world. The Roman senate may be a warning to us, but it is neither a precedent nor a parallel.

Town Bonds for Good Roads.

From the Boston Globe.

Judge Thayer, of Clinton, Ia., recently delivered a striking speech on good roads which has been made the subject of a pamphlet, published by the agricultural department.

In this speech he declares that mud on highways annually costs this country, in the destruction of vehicles, feed of extra draft animals, and delay in getting products to market, something like $250,000,000, of which sum the state of Iowa pays perhaps $8,000,000.

Arguing from this fact, Judge Thayer says it is a duty as well as a just prerogative to bond every town to an amount sufficient to build scientifically perfect roads wherever they are needed within its boundaries, connecting with the similar highways of the adjoining municipalities.

Being aware that to the average farmer the idea of bonding the town has a terror next to death, Judge Thayer observes with great warmth that the business of barbarism "is transacted on the 'no trust' plan. The 500,000,000 people who go in debt have food to eat, clothes to wear, and at night a place to lay their heads. The 500,000,000 who do not possess sufficient confidence in themselves to trust one another never tasted flour nor beef, go naked, and sleep out doors."

A too sentimental booming of the blessings of debt is not quite easy to appreciate, but the judge's preliminary statement seems to dispose of this possible objection to his ideas. If bad roads cost the state of Iowa $8,000,000 annually, towns which bond themselves to build good roads in any state are not hazarding their credit on things new-fangled or flighty in conception, but are merely paying an inevitable debt in a way that secures assured profit and increased value of their property in the future.

No More Feathers.

From the Chicago Post.

Every lover of birds will be gratified by the action of the members of the Woman's Club in endeavoring to do what they can to stop the slaughter of the little songsters by refusing to wear feathers in their hats. The motives that actuated them are unquestionably most creditable, and it is only by some such movement that anything practical can be accomplished. All the sermons and all the lectures that could be delivered would have no effect until the ladies themselves met and decided, as one of them expressed it yesterday, that "aigrettes are a nuisance, anyway." Accepting this prefatory statement as true, it was then a very simple matter to see how cruel and unnecessary is the slaughter of the birds.

Another thing to be considered, and of which there was but a mere suggestion yesterday, is that the feathers are what have made the theater hat a nuisance. If a woman is to remove her hat in the theater she must take great pains with her hair before she goes; if she can keep her hat on she can save about an hour and twenty minutes' time in the matter of proper preparation. Of course, we wouldn't think of charging that the fair and progressive members of the Woman's Club are merely sacrificing the feathers in order that they may go back to the old custom of wearing their hats at places of amusement, but we cannot help seeing some of the advantges of the movement.

Then there is a further objection to feathers in a hat from the point of view of a new woman. They are not at all manly. We do not intend to intimate that this occurred to the members of the Woman's Club, either. We merely point it out as one of the elements of strength of the new and most meritorious crusade. It will have a great deal of weight with a great many women.

All in all, there is every reason to believe that the movement will be most effective, whatever the varying motives may be, and we are heartily glad of it.

All Picked the Right One.

Nobody bet on Jim,
      —Oh, no!
Nobody bet on Jim.
    They all thought Bob
    Would get the job
With that awful punch on him.
    They all of them felt
    'Twas Fitz's belt,
And nobody bet on Jim!

Nobody bet on Jim,
      —Oh, no!
Nobody bet on Jim.
    The odds were wide
    On Corbett's side;
Fitzsimmons' odds were slim.
    Along the track
    They're walking back;
(But nobody bet on Jim!)
      —New York Press.

An Intellectual Triumph.

From the New York Press.

Teetery Tompkins—"Say, Spangly, wots de diffurnce between de woman wot give me er quarter ter tell her horyscope an de one wot you tried ter kiss?"

Spangled Meed—"I dunno."

Teetery Tompkins—"Mine was humbugged an yourn was bumhugged."

Another Back Number.

From the Chicago Record.

Where now is Carson, once proud city of the West,
  Where all was life and noise and mighty stir?
She has, like Rome and Athens and the rest,
  Gone glimmering with the dream of things that were.

Unjust Suspicion.

From Puck.

First hobo—"I t'ink dere's somet'ing crooked about dat feller; I t'ink he's a Yale divinity student in disguise—he's readin' a Bible.

Second hobo—"Oh, no! he is all right! He's perfec'ly straight an' honest—I wuz wit' him when he stole it."

He Could.

From the Chicago Tribune.

"Young man, can you——"

"Yes, sir," interrupted the youth, "I can. You were about to ask me if I could support your daughter in the style to which she has been accustomed. My right knee is good for thirty or forty years yet."

And a Deadhead, Too.

From the New York Press.

"Return checks?" repeated the gatekeeper. "Well, I rather guess not! Do you take this for a roof garden?"

Sadly, albeit hand-in-hand, Adam and Eve passed out of Eden.

Of Course He's Worthy.

From the Chicago Post.

"Do you think he's worthy of our daughter?" asked the old gentleman doubtfully.

"Worthy?" exclaimed Mrs. Bloomer, as if astonished at the question; "why, he has a record of twenty-six century runs."

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Henry Drummond, whose death all the English speaking world deplores, was a man of birth as well as education, his family being a county family in the neighborhood of Stirling. He was the Free Church Professor of Natural Science at Glasgow, and was only 46 years old when he died. His account of himself, contributed to the forthcoming edition of "Who's Who?" an English publication, says that he was educated at the universities of Edinburgh and Tubingen; that his life was largely spent in work of the Toynbee order and in scientific and other travel; that he accompanied the director general of the geological survey (Sir Archibald Geikie) in geological survey of the Rocky mountains in 1878; that he made an exploration of Central Africa in 1884-5, and afterward visited Australia and the New Hebrides, the Malay archipelago, Japan and China.

"Do you take sugar—and milk?" is said to be the correct formula for the teamaker. To mention cream in connection with tea is not only a vulgarity but also a proof of ignorance of what is good, since connoisseurs never think of drinking cream with tea. An English writer says that men are more intimately interested than women in the making of tea, more subtly conscious of its merits. Women discriminate less intelligently. Tea to them is plain tea; tea to a man is China or Indian or Ceylon or a blend. The man who takes his tea neat is on the way to be a tea drunkard.

The creation of a new state out of Greater New York city is talked of as one of the possibilities. The greater municipality will have a population of over 3,000,000, a population equaled by only six states of the Union—New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Illinois, Missouri and Ohio. Two bills have been introduced into the state legislature looking to the creation of the state of Manhattan, which is to include within its boundaries the city of New York as it will be when the law providing for the union of Brooklyn and other cities with New York goes into effect.

Fanny Davenport believes that America is too young a nation to draw from our own history any dramatic tragedies. "We must still rely for inspiration upon the myths of ancient history," declares the famous actress. "Besides, we are not a tragic-lived people. Restless, energetic and immersed in business pursuits wearing upon the brain and muscle all day, we attend the theater at night for recreation at best, but in most cases for laughing purposes only. The stage in America is not a public instructor."

The Societe de Geographie of Paris is preparing a warm welcome for Dr. Nansen. That a greater number of persons may be enabled to attend the meeting to be held in his honor, the society has retained the Trocadero hall, which will accommodate more than 5,000. Dr. Nansen will give an account of his Arctic adventures, speaking in French. It is understood that the president of the council will be present, and that he will have a commander's cross to bestow on the intrepid explorer, on whom is to be conferred the society's great gold medal.

European doctors are trying to find out what use can be made of Roentgen rays in the treatment of disease. No decided results have yet been obtained from the experiments with the rays on the various kinds of microbes, but Professor Loitet, of Lyons, who inoculated two sets of guinea pigs with tuberculosis, found that those exposed to the rays showed no sign of disease, while in the other tuberculosis followed its regular course.

In some of the farming districts of China pigs are harnessed to small wagons and made to draw them. The well known tendency of the pig to go in a direction different from that in which it is desired to have him go is overcome by his driver's wishing him to go in a direction in which the driver doesn't really want him to go. At least that it the way the matter is explained by a recent traveler, who certainly ought to be an Irishman, if he isn't.

The Literary World publishes a paragraph out of a private letter from R. D. Blackmore, in which the venerable author of "Lorna Doone" says that to Americans the English language owes nearly all its new expressions: "There does not seem to be left in us the power to hit out a new spark of language. We are like a lot of boys with their hands in their pockets, looking on at the blacksmith, and racing for his red chips."

The Rev. Dr. Mayo declared the other day that "the sixteen Southern states are today paying as much for the public schools as the British parliament votes every year for the public school system of the British Islands—between $20,000,000 and $30,000,000." And he adds that since the war the South has expended "$250,000,000 of its own money for education—$75,000,000 of it for the children of the colored people."

Recently the Duke of Norfolk, while walking through the streets of London, happened to see an old lady in evident distress. She wanted a cab, and could not attract the cabman's notice. His grace called a vehicle and saw her into it safely. To his surprise, he found three coppers slipped into his hand, and the old lady said: "There you are, my good man, go and get yourself a glass of beer."

No less than $250,000 was realized by the Goncourt sale in Paris. Some of the Chinese and Japanese curiosities fetched comparatively high prices; a vase surmounted by two dragons in rock crystal, $300; another in green onyx, $300; a mandarin's scepter, $200; a black lacquer inkstand, $400; a koro in Satsuma ware of the eighteenth century, $300, and a china pot of the same period, $200.

The Augusta (Ga.) News says that the colony town of Fitzgerald, which was founded in Southwest Georgia two years ago by Grand Army men from the North, is not prospering. It attributes the failure of the experiment to the bad location of the town, and to the fact that the colonists depended too much upon their pensions, and, therefore, did not work enough.

New York has begun the systematic examination of pupils in the public schools by 150 special doctors, who visited the primary departments. In all 140 children were found with cases of actual contagious disease sufficient to require their exclusion from the schools.

The late General William R. Terry, of Richmond, Va., who died Sunday, lived for one day of his life in the very heart of one of the world's great crises. He commanded a brigade under Pickett at Gettysburg, and led it with great courage in the charge on Cemetery ridge.

The late Rev. Dr. Cobham Brewer, of England, who finished his "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable" when he was 85 years old, not only worked his way through Cambridge university without running into debt, but he had $150 in cash when he was graduated.

The woman's movement is making headway in Prussia. Recently Miss Marie Hassenstein received a principal's certificate as teacher, the first ever given to a woman in that country. She purposes to establish a school for girls at Charlottenburg.

At a quiet-looking farm near Somerset, N. J., officers of the law seized a lot of milk cans. The cans were full of whisky, and the farm was the seat of a flourishing illicit still industry.

According to the latest report of the Bell Telephone Company there are now 804,687 telephones in the hands of its licensees.

When She Saw the Easter Bonnet.

"The little birds are like good thoughts,"
  The gentle grandam said,
"Don't wear them, dear, to ornament
  The outside of your head."
      —Chicago Tribune.

He Was Contented to Do So.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

"What did she say when you ventured to kiss her?"

"She said, 'Stop right where you are!'"