

The Intelligencer.

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IN ADVANCE.

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Peck's prohibition amendment was killed in the state senate Tuesday by a vote of 20 to 9.

McAllister's club license bill was sent to engrossment this week, but it is thought that there will be a hard fight on this bill later on.

Among the numerous candidates who are said to be contesting with John A. Kootz for the office of railroad and warehouse commissioner is R. H. Brown, senator from this, the fifteenth senatorial district.

The weather bureau reports that the month just past has been the coldest April in twenty six years. The comfort in this news consists in the hope it affords that such spring weather may continue to be as rare in the future.

John D. Rockefeller last week gave to the University of Chicago more than two million dollars in land adjacent to the former property of the university. Mr. Rockefeller's gifts to this institution this year amount to more than five million dollars.

Commissioner Mulvihill has discovered an old statute forbidding saloons to be located within two hundred yards of a public park. In consequence about two hundred saloons in St. Louis are expecting a revocation or license about July 1.

The Missouri legislature now in special session is engaged in making trades preparatory to the final votes and adjournment. The habit of trading votes makes anything like prediction of the fate of particular bills out of the question.

Engineer John F. Stevens has borne such high testimony of the feasibility and desirability of a waterway from the lakes to the Gulf that he has been invited to give public expression to his sentiments on this subject in a formal address in St. Louis.

The waterway Commission appointed in conformity with an act of the last Congress will make an inspection of the Missouri river in the month of May, passing along the river in a government boat, so as to give a first hand report at the next regular session of Congress.

A steamer left San Francisco this week for China bearing relief for the famine sufferers, four million pounds of flour—the gift of Americans. While wars have not ceased the world is becoming more neighborly. Human sympathies are broader than they were twenty-five or even ten years ago.

Richard Kerens of St. Louis and Martin Maloney of Philadelphia have formed a project for purchasing a strip of land from the Vatican gardens in Rome to a point sixty miles down to the sea coast. It is their idea, if the civil authorities do not object, to add this land to the temporal domain of the pope.

Peary's preparation for another attempt to reach the North Pole suggests the age of the Crusaders or the age of the Golden Fleece. It is not likely that success will be met with until the motive of these expeditions is changed. If gold were to be discovered in vast quantities in the farthest north a way would soon be found to conquer the difficulties that now seem insurmountable.

The Post-Dispatch of Tuesday has a noted cartoon entitled "The still hunt of the Ananias Club". Parker, Storer, Wallace, Harriman, Chandler, Bowen and others are hiding in the bushes watching the president about to bite a third term plum hanging temptingly from a tree before him. The President is saying, "I said I would not."

Luther Burbank, who has earned for himself in botany as Edison has in electricity, the title of wizard has just published a book—his first. And strange to say the subject of this book is child rearing and not plant propagation. Mr. Burbank has evidently written this book as a sort of recreation, and in it he carries over botanical deductions into another field and offers them as interesting working hypotheses for others who are better qualified to test their validity. This book may prove of great value. The most important scientific and phil-

osophical truths have been stumbled upon by those who were looking for something else and who never came to know their worth. In fact, so common is this experience that it may also be stated as a general proposition that a great truth cannot be overtaken in a fair chase, but is wont to come and give itself up to a non-pursuer.

Paul Morton has expressed the belief that this County will never again experience a period of general business depression such as has been common in the past. He thinks that a general crop failure in a country so large is wholly improbable and besides industries have become so diversified that even a crop failure would hardly avail to produce serious depression.

The Kansas City Journal is backing Folk of Francis for the Democratic nomination for the presidency in 1908 and Cortelyou for the republican nomination. If the people have their way about it Bryan will lead the democrats and Uncle Joe Cannon the Republicans. There is no doubt that these are the two most widely popular men in the two parties.

President Roosevelt has admitted Dr. Cronin to the Ananias class for no greater offense than writing a magazine article in which he differs with the president on the subject of race suicide. The president may find that it will take too much of his time to give all the Ananias a special letter of credit. He might just make a list of them and publish them periodically like an advertised letter list.

The vigor with which the railroads are pushing the colonization of the Southwest is to be seen in the organization of bureaus to solicit foreign immigrants. J. M. Johnson, assistant to Vice-president Burd of the Missouri Pacific and Iron Mountain systems has gone to Europe where he is organizing his workers in Germany. It is not lawyers they are seeking but agriculturists of small means.

Kansas City is making a bid for the republican national convention in 1908. At a non-partisan mass meeting last Saturday night half of the necessary sum in the way of a "bonus" was raised. Kansas City has learned the value of advertising. The great Convention Hall has paid for itself several times over in making possible great gatherings there. It would be a source of education to many Eastern republicans anyhow to visit the West. It is to be hoped that Kansas City will get at least one of the national conventions.

According to estimates recently made the cost of living has increased 57 per cent in twenty-five years. It is believed that the profits of business in general and the price of skilled labor have increased in corresponding degree, but it is doubtful whether the wages of unskilled labor have increased in anything like proportion. Moreover there is a wide difference between the estimated cost of living and the scale of living. Everywhere and among all classes of people the scale of living is much nearer the earning capacity than it has ever been before.

John Leary, a Wall street financier who would doubtless scout any theory proposed by Mr. Bryan, is advocating government ownership of one transcontinental railroad line. Mr. Leary believes that this would be profitable to the government in the transportation of mails and that it would have a regulating effect upon freight rates. Mr. Leary would have the government issue bonds and take over one of the lines now in existence. He would parallel the right of way with a model automobile road also built at government expences.

The sentiment in favor of river improvements has come about more in consequence of the agitation in favor of an isthmian canal than because of the inadequacy of railroad transportation. It is however fortunate that this sentiment has been aroused contemporaneously with the discovery of this inadequacy. Five or six years of phenomenal crops, and railroad legislation which, while in the main just and needed, is yet unsettling to the money market upon while railroad extensions depend, have served to bring about freight conditions which cry out for relief. Our great streams are too valuable to be longer neglected, and there is only need of initiative and energy to turn these conditions to valuable account. It ought to be no discouragement to river navigation that it once declined. Time was when the shipping in which the steamboats might always

have held their own with the railroads was much smaller than now. It is believed that the time has come for the revival of river commerce, but the articles transported by this means in the future will be very different from the articles carried in the days when the steamboat was the only agent of transportation.

The Missouri senate killed the special corporation tax measure of the house this week at Jefferson City. The bill was not so important one and provided only for an additional tax of 25 cents on the \$1000 of capital stock of all the corporations in the state. There has been no interest in a general revision of our revenue laws by this legislature but a strong tendency to shift taxes here and there, sometime with manifest injustice.

The San Francisco investigation is proceeding slowly. Broad hints at great finds are made but no results are to be shown yet. It is said that Mayor Schmitz has promised to become a state's witness and to tell everything if he can have promise of immunity. There seems to be no doubt that the municipal government was unspeakably corrupt, but whether the agitation is headed toward reform or only towards satisfying a public craving for sensation remains to be seen.

The projectors of the Kansas City Excelsior Springs and St. Joseph electric railroad, since the granting of the desired franchises by the Kansas City council, announce that it is the purpose of this company to make Kansas City the center of a vast system of interurban electric lines. An option is held on a large east sidelocation for terminals, and the projectors say that the most critical stage of the deal is past. Work on the Kansas City and St. Joseph line is expected to begin next week this road will be double tracked all the way, one of the tracks to serve to bring in steam lines that have no entrance into Kansas City.

There are many men who criticize, abuse and heap epithets upon the mail order houses and those who trade with them and yet themselves engage in a practice which, if universally followed would be equally harmful to the country town. They buy their hats, shoes, furnishing goods and some of their clothing, in the retail stores of Kansas City. Their wives, daughters and little sons, too, are adorned in garments purchased from Emery Bird Thayer & Co, when as a matter of fact the home merchant sells the same goods at a cheaper price. The mail order friend is a detriment to the small merchant and so is the Kansas City shopper.

President Hadley of Yale says that Western universities are far below those in the East and will continue to be so. He supports this statement by the argument that the Western institutions are more or less local, that they lack the funds and that they have not the traditions of the older colleges of the East. That so learned a man as President Hadley should give utterance to such sentiments is indeed surprising, even though he naturally must have a very partisan viewpoint. His first contention is at present undoubtedly true. The Eastern universities now have enrolled a great many students from the South and West. But this is not so much the case as it was ten years ago, and as the Western colleges are improving the tendency to go East will undoubtedly diminish. True it is that the Eastern institutions are a little ahead in the matter of endowment; but most of the Western universities have either powerful individuals or states backing them and a very healthy condition financially is generally prevalent. In the matter of traditions there is the same argument. Yale has more traditions than Missouri because it is older. In a few more decades Missouri will have as many traditions as any self-respecting university could want. Besides the value of traditions is easily overestimated. His arguments as to why the East is ahead of the West now are very good; but when they are used to show that the East will always remain ahead of the West they seem almost silly.

Reuben A. Stigall, of Sunshine Ray County, died at his home last week, aged 73 years. Mr. Stigall was well known here. He had lived in Ray County for about forty years. He was married three times and had twenty-five children, twelve of whom survive.

Miss Mattie Spear went to Kansas City Thursday morning for a few days stay.

Wrote An Opera In Twenty-Four Hours.

The May American Magazine contains the romantic story of Oscar Hammerstein, who has built the Manhattan Opera House in New York City and entered into competition with Heinrich Coors and the old Metropolitan Opera House. Oscar Hammerstein is a cigar machine inventor, a real estate speculator, a vaudeville manager, a composer, a theater builder, an impresario, a shrewd man of business, a reckless plunger, a Jew, a humorist, the father of six children. He talks in whimsical epigrams and thinks in cigar machines and opera houses. Dealing with receipts and expenditures that run up to \$50,000 a week, so far as anybody has ever been able to discover he keeps no books. His ledger is in his head, and he tells nobody how his balance stands.

Here is an authoritative statement of how Hammerstein wrote an opera in 24 hours.

"One day before the opening he witnessed a musical comedy in another theatre and declared that he could write a better one himself, words and music, in 24 hours. Gustav Kerker, composer of 'The Belle of New York,' and two or three other men bet him \$500 that he couldn't. They locked him up in a hotel room and hired a burly gurdy to pay steadily under the window. At the end of twenty-four hours Oscar emerged with the operetta. It was in one act and was called 'The Koh-i-noor.'"

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The Thompson Publishing Co. St. Louis Missouri

The Ella May passed up the river Tuesday on her way to Kansas City about four o'clock in the afternoon. She was formerly an excursion boat, but will be used now as a ferry boat, taking the place of the Anole Cade.

Married in this city Tuesday, April 30, Warren Jones and Mrs. Jennie Whitmeyer, both of Higginsville, Judge Thomas A. Walker officiating.

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In addition to the above, we have a few pieces of Silk Organdies carried over from last season which we are going to close out at a sacrifice. They are gems of art. We have about 150 yards worth 50c, will be sold at 35c. We have about 200 yards worth 75c, will sell them at 42c. We have 5 pieces colored embroidered Swisses worth 60c, which we will sell for 37c. There are many other things.

W. G. McCAUSLAND.