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# First National Bank

Devils Lake, N. Dak.

Capital - - \$75,000  
Surplus - - \$35,000

## THE INTER-OCEAN AND DEVILS LAKE FREE PRESS.

Published Every Friday at Devils Lake, Ramsey  
County, North Dakota

Entered as second class matter.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF RAMSEY COUNTY  
AND DEVILS LAKE.

C. D. MILLS,  
Managing Editor.

ALL BILLS COLLECTED MONTHLY.

AUGUST 6, 1909.

These market reports are decidedly misleading. Take the question of sugar for instance, about every day the market reports show a decline of ten points in the price of sugar but just as you are about to celebrate the event by putting an extra dose upon that dish of ripe, luscious berries, the market closes with sugar ten points higher and there you are.

The treasury of the state of Iowa has been enriched by the deposit of \$125,000 by the Western Union Telegraph Co., in compliance with the provisions of a new law. Every franchise in the state ought to be taxed and this law which reaches only nonresident concerns ought to be made to cover those of a local nature as well. Street car companies, gas and electric light companies and telephone organizations all have access to the streets and highways and this gratuity ought to be the subject of taxation. A franchise is worth something.

Last week occurred the death of the only survivor of the family of Jefferson Davis, president of the southern confederacy. Mrs. Hayes, of Denver, daughter of the great southerner and prominent in the club life of that city. A few days later occurred the death of Mrs. Dandridge, daughter of the former president, Zachariah Taylor, at Winchester, Va. And only a few days ago there died in the east at the age of 108, a man who was an orderly in the army of the great Napoleon. The passing of these people serve to remind us of the fleeting years.

It is surprising that the alleged burdens imposed by a protective tariff are never discovered until an effort is made to revise the schedules. A great noise is being made now in certain quarters because of the burdens imposed by an advance in duties when as a matter of fact the tariff has nothing whatever to do with the selling price of the domestic commodity. Numerous articles are selling for less than the duty that is placed upon the

imported goods. If the tariff is a tax it is added to the imported and not to the home made article.

Brother Resler of the Starkweather Times is very much worked up over the fact that the states attorney refused to appeal from the decision of the county commissioners and take the matter of building the new jail and sheriff's residence to the district court. The fact of the matter was that there were only a handful of signers to the petition asking that this be done, and these probably signed the petitions because they were urged to do so by a few knockers. States Attorney Duell was of the opinion that he had not just cause or ground for interfering with the action of the board and holding up the construction of the building for several months, and hence paid no attention to the petition. Meanwhile the work of construction is progressing rapidly and Ramsey county will soon have another building which will be a credit to it.

With the last issue of the Warwick Sentinel that paper rounded up its third year. When the new Aneta branch was opened into this city Warwick was one of the few towns along the line that had a newspaper. Editor Francis F. Kirsch went to the townsite with the earliest of them, his outfit being hauled across country before the railroad was completed. He has done much toward making Warwick the live hustling little burg that it is. Mr. Kirsch has pushed from the beginning to make Warwick go, his motto being "Warwick First, Last and All the Time." The first of the year the Sentinel was made one of the official papers of Benson county. This was a wise move on the part of the commissioners of that county, as The Sentinel is largely circulated in the southeast part of Benson. The business men of Warwick give the Sentinel the support that is due it, and in all Mr. Kirsch is making good. Success to you, Brother Kirsch.

### THE RACE OF PHILANTHROPY.

The distance to the tape is not the thing which causes the leader in a footrace to screw his face into a mask of agony. It is the contestant two feet behind him.

Consider the tortures of the foremost man in the race of the philanthropic millionaires—Andrew Carnegie, having had a good start, leads by \$20,000,000. He scatters libraries over the hills and plains, in city and village, and his money chest is lowered by many pounds. He founds an institute for research in the realms of pure

learning, he builds a music hall, buys a boat free of iron for the purpose of pursuing magnetic currents, and gives republics and kingdoms specimens of paleontological enormities. But to what advantage? At his heels runs one of "deadly patience, frugal of his wind and mindful of his strength, John D. Rockefeller. As the two near the goal, the runner in the rear comes up with \$10,000,000 spurts. Educational funds, universities, missionaries, cancer institutes, are shed by the trackside, \$119,304,000 of them. Two more spurts such as that of last week, and the steadier runner is even with the leader. Then will come the tests of training and treasure. The last lap will be one worth living to see.

### CONFIDENCE

The character of the prosperity that the country is gaining little by little is made apparent in the last issue of Dum's Review:

Reports from the principal industrial and mercantile centers are of an encouraging nature, and even the long delay in tariff readjustment and the new controversy over the proposition to levy a tax on the net earnings of corporations do not seem to hold in check the improvement in business conditions.

A year ago the business world would have been set on edge by a proposal from the White House that corporations be taxed and of an amendment permitting the application of an income tax. Business was feverish then, suffering from a severe shock to the nerves, timid and ready to fly to safety at every sign of wanting confidence.

It speaks well for conditions that two measures which will reduce dividends and will, besides, place corporations under the eye and regulations of the government have caused such little disturbance. There is wailing and howling in the vicinity of Wall street. The regulations and the tax the street is not greatly troubled over. It recognizes that the restraint is only indirect and it believes the tax can be made up by the increased earnings forecast in the next era of prosperity. But it dreads the oversight and the evidence gathered by federal study of corporations books. Beyond this local uneasiness little agitation is apparent. We are on the margin of solid prosperity.

### BRITAIN ALONE.

Great Britain, in the event of war with Germany, looks to France for aid. Whether the French government would be opposed to taking up arms or not it is doubtful if the common sense and caution of the ministry could hold the people in check. Thirty years have not lessened the desire to avenge Sedan.

But the alliance could hardly prove an effective one since the Anglo-German war would be fought out almost entirely upon the sea. And the navy of France, despite the expenditure upon it of \$700,000,000 in ten years, is fallen into chaos and deplorable inefficiency.

An investigation made by a parliamentary committee shows that French naval construction has been made to cost a fourth more than that in England and Germany. Shells condemned because of an accident to one of the battleships, were manufactured and accepted for two years after. Guns of an ancient pattern were found upon warships where the contract called for modern equipment. Six vessels of the largest type are now being built though the country has not a drydock which can accommodate them. A naval battle lasting for five or six hours, it is asserted, would exhaust the ammunition supplies in the port arsenals and leave France at the mercy of an enemy.

Such an ally might prove worse than none to England since she might be called upon to divide her forces in order to protect and rescue her friend. From Japan can be expected no more help than the seizure of German territorial possessions in China. The colonies would supply funds, possibly men, but they might wisely consider that any ships they may build before the outbreak of hostilities are needed at home. America is out of the question, in spite of flattering talk and the finger pointing to German aggressions in South America.

England will have virtually to fight alone. It will be one race against the other race, hate against contempt, empire against the grim ambition for empire.

### HELP WANTED.

The farmer—the prairie farmer—is never "out of the woods" so to speak, until his grain is harvested and marketed. In North Dakota the farmer is right up against the proposition of "what will the harvest be?" At this writing the prospects are good. Fall is about the worst enemy left to contend with this season. To be sure in some localities there has been a surplus of rain, in others not quite enough, and in many localities foul seed and poor farming are apparent. But on the whole the conditions throughout the

state are very flattering.

It is fortunate that the harvest time varies in different parts of the state as it relieves in a measure the help situation. However, with a splendid crop in sight all over the state and without the usual "harvest time assistance" from the railroads—special rates for harvest hands—now prohibited by law—there is some uneasiness on the part of farmers. Where can help be secured to take care of the crops? The Minot Optic sounds the warning in the northwestern part of the state and declares that the only danger that now confronts the farmer of northwestern North Dakota is the threatened shortage of help to move the large crop of grain which at this time appears imminent. The Optic article is a fair sample of others in the press in every county.

From every available source comes the warning that help will be scarce. This is a story that seems to spread with peculiar regularity throughout the country every year, but this year there seems to be more truth than fiction in the report and the farmers of this territory should get busy at once and provide for the necessary labor.

It is true that there will be many who will class the labor scare with the rust, smut and hot wind scares, but it also must be remembered that Minnesota and the eastern part of North Dakota are figuring on a large crop, and besides things have been picking up right along in the eastern states and a huge army of men are needed in those sections to aid in the harvest, or remain in the cities at work on the great building boom now in progress.

The man who has a steady job with fair play at home will not quit his job to come west and work in the fields; he would prefer to hang on with the promise of a prolonged season. Many who are out of work will be gobbled up by the farmers of Minnesota and the eastern part of North Dakota and the balance will come farther west. There may be more than enough men to go around, but the way the crops now look no farmer in this section of the country can afford to take a chance. Therefore it is best that the report of the threatened labor shortage be given due consideration; for it will behoove a man nothing to raise ever so large a crop if he is to have his hopes and fortune blighted at the very last and most critical moment by the lack of labor.

### ALDRICHISM.

A one-man power, even if employed for the public good, should be the most hateful of incidents in the career of a representative government. Danger lies in the precedent. When the despotism is to the minds of most, directed against the common weal, then it becomes not merely a condition to be abhorred, but to be crushed. The frontier of political profanity has been touched.

The spectacle of Senator Aldrich, driving, guiding, swerving the United States senate at will, shows the upper chamber of congress wallowing in the very mire of subserviency. Under other circumstances than the present the sight might be pitiful. It is now, instead, one that angers and irritates, breeds contempt of the legislative institution and invites reprisal at fearful interest against the influential forces.

Who is this man Aldrich that he should be staled in the throne of the tyrant and vested with the scepter of absolutism? Has he performed notable labors for his country? Is his statesmanship of the order of greatness, his achievements high and conspicuous? Aldrich is no more than a concentration of political shrewdness, little removed from the ward heeler and precinct manipulator. He has done nothing noteworthy in his long presence in congress. Fathered no measures of general benefit, led no reforms, brought no depth of understanding to legislation or made a single sacrifice to patriotism and loyalty. Throughout the tariff debates he has been shifty and deceitful. One case in point was his suppression of information concerning the German wage scale obtained at some cost of humiliation of the Berlin authorities. These schedules did not fit into the Aldrich argument, and he caused the documents to be hidden. He has posed as a tariff expert. Dolliver, of Iowa, proved that Aldrich was not only not familiar with the intricacies of the protective policy, but that he misrepresented facts given by manufacturers and merchants in the proceedings of the house committee on ways and means. "I will not sit quietly by," said Senator Tillman, "and hear falsehood blandly spoken on this floor." And the insult passed unchallenged. It was discovered only last Tuesday that amendments were offered as endorsements of the finance committee which, as a matter of fact, has never come to the eyes of the minority members of the committee until presented to the senate.

The cold impudence of Aldrich in declaring that the corporation tax would be killed within two years is a

measure of the man's confidence in his strength. His plans, further, to render the income tax abortive by the exercise of his domineering coercion.

United States senators are not without consciousness of the will of the people. It must be borne in upon them in the next few months that the country will not submit to the continuance of the autocracy of Aldrich.

### THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF CHILDHOOD.

The south is in a measure the victim of circumstances. Southern industrialism is still in its beginning and the south has naturally yielded to the terrible pressure of northern temptation. The tempting and oppressing capital of the north is far more glibly than the tempted capital-lacking southland. Child labor is, legislatively speaking, under control in New York and New England, but northern capital is not under control. For northern capital has made a way for itself, has built child labor mills in the south, and, while seeming to enrich its present, is impoverishing and damning the south's future. Northern capital is guilty of southern child labor—guilty of what Professor Ross has called long distance or wireless sin—for the northern capitalist gets his dividends from southern child labor products, though divided by a thousand miles and more from his little victims. The south is becoming, alas, a dumping ground for northern capital. The south demands the acquiescence of the north in its political methods and social industrial ideals, and the north is unconsciously taking its revenge in crushing out the lives of the little children of the southern states.—Stephen S. Wise, Ph. D. in the Pacific Monthly for August.

### A Little Off His Head.



—Harper's Weekly.

### The Heart of Youth.



Bill—Ketch me a-takin' yer aht fer a 'appy dye agine! Done nuffink but grumble, you 'aven't, ever since I put the snowball dahn yer back.—Sketch.

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### Hard Bubble.



"He used to be a pessimist and say the world was a bubble. I understand he has changed his opinion."

"Yes. You see, he fell out of an airship not long ago."—New York Herald.

### "Man Overboard" on the Ark.

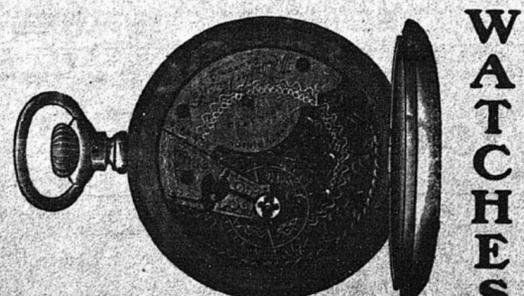


The Duck—Dod gash the silly idiot! If they don't stop throwing those life preservers they'll hit and kill me yet.—Harper's Weekly.

### An Incomplete Program.

The lightning bug once more draws nigh. A thing of beautiful wonder. It's lucky that it need not try With every flash to thunder.—Washington Star.

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