

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year \$6.00; Daily Bee and Sunday, One Year \$8.00; Illustrated Bee, One Year \$10.00; Sunday Bee, One Year \$5.00; Saturday Bee, One Year \$5.00; Weekly Bee, One Year \$2.00.

OFFICES: Omaha: The Bee Building, South Omaha; City Hall Building, Twenty-fifth and N. Street; Council Bluffs, 10 Pearl Street; Chicago, 106 Unity Building; New York, Temple Court; Washington, 50 Fourteenth Street; Sioux City, 61 Park Street.

CORRESPONDENCE: Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to Omaha, Editor, Editorial Department.

BUSINESS LETTERS: Business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha.

REMITTANCES: Remit by draft, express or postal order, payable to The Bee Publishing Company. Only 2-cent stamps accepted in payment of small accounts. Personal checks, except on Omaha or Eastern exchanges, not accepted.

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of July, 1900, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Number of copies. Includes categories like 'Copies of this issue', 'Copies of other issues', 'Total', etc.

Net daily average: 27,925. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of July, 1900. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

PARTIES LEAVING FOR SUMMER.

Parties leaving the city for the summer may have the most of their mail sent to them regularly by notifying The Bee Business Office. Letters may be mailed. The address will be changed as often as desired.

Because the Chinaman's eyes are oblique is no sure sign that he wages war on the bias.

The "foot work" of the Chinese Boxers is said by those who have observed it to be superb.

The attorney general is too busy fighting flies and mosquitoes to smash any trusts these hot days.

Since the attempt upon his life in Paris the shah of Persia is entitled to think that he is something of a potentate himself.

Unless some word comes soon a new exploring expedition will have to be organized to locate Alfred Austin and his verse factory.

With the passing of the old link and plin the switchman becomes obsolete and will have to take to golf links with the rest.

Prosperity will be the keynote for the republican campaign text book. Prosperity works overtime and all the time for republican success.

Dollar dinners will be too expensive for democratic campaign workers, unless they secure a larger percentage of that Nebraska campaign fund.

It is fortunate for the Chinese government that it has an inland capital well out of range of naval guns, else another battle of Manila might do the work.

Major Armes got away with small difficulty when he pulled the nose of General Beaver, but he found himself up against the real thing when he got a woman scorned after him.

The novelists are already seizing upon the incidents of the Boxer uprising in China for a new output. Just wait, however, until the up-to-date yellow melodrama gets on the boards.

Democratic riddle—How can the Filipinos be already capable of self-government when the negroes of the south are not even to be trusted with the ballot after thirty years of political tutelage?

Republican prosperity is hard on the farmer. In South Dakota difficulty is being experienced securing hands to harvest the small grain crop. Nothing of the kind occurred during the late democratic administration.

American manufacturers are to furnish most of the equipment to London's underground electric railway. The country that wants the best and most modern mechanical devices must make requisition on the United States.

The annual production of gold for the year 1899, as estimated by the best authorities, is \$313,307,819, or \$100,000,000 more than it was four years ago. The conspiracy of the money power to make gold scarce has not been attended with much success.

Li Hung Chang has pushed a big pile of Chinese chips into the game in refusing to send communications to the foreign ministers. The foreign commanders, however, are entitled to a showdown and will soon know whether it is done on a pair of deuces or a royal flush.

In making an order that further messages to our diplomatic representatives be transmitted only in plain English, instead of cipher, the Chinese government has stopped at the half-way station. It might as well have gone on and insisted that all the communications be written in good Chinese, so as to save the interpreter.

TWO BLACK CROWS.

The crow is reputed to be a bird of ill omen. His habitual croaking has been interpreted as foreboding bad luck or foreshadowing disaster. But the crowing of the crow does not always prove a reliable storm gauge. The political crow, for example, often indulges in predictions of dire calamity when there is really no ground for alarm.

It is amusing if not instructive to note that two presidential candidates, who are at swords' points politically, agree on seeing a black cloud on the horizon that threatens this country with irreparable calamity.

On one side William Jennings Bryan professes to see in the record of commercial failures for July an infallible sign that the United States is on the eve of the greatest panic it has experienced within the century.

The disastrous consequences of the gold standard are beginning to manifest themselves, in Mr. Bryan's mind's eye, by the temporary closing of several factories and a few building strikes.

On the other side, Wharton Barker, in the last number of his paper, the Philadelphia American, proves conclusively to his own satisfaction that the fall in prices of certain commodities during the last three months must precipitate business disaster and panic at no distant day.

Mr. Barker sounds a warning of danger that we are on the verge of entering, through the accursed gates of panic, an area of industrial collapse and suspended productive activity that will break before election day on next November.

The American people owe a debt of gratitude to Messrs. Bryan and Barker for sounding the alarm just in time for them to climb into the Noah's ark with all the animals and take a forty-day deluge voyage straight for Arrarat. It is not for us to insult the soothsayers by asking them for better proof than that presented by the commercial failure record or the tabulated index of the movement of prices.

Suffice it to say that the coming cataclysm is in the air and needs only George Francis Train's horoscope to make it perceptible to the vision of a blind man.

A THREATENING ATTITUDE.

The attitude of Li Hung Chang, who is representing the Chinese government, is distinctly threatening. His announcement that no messages will be delivered to the ministers because the allies are advancing on Peking, very plainly indicates the purpose of the imperial authorities. They are manifestly determined not to comply with the conditions submitted by this government regarding communication with the ministers in Peking, unless the expedition against the Chinese capital is abandoned and that, there is every reason to believe, will not be done.

The latest developments appear to fully confirm the statements made by Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of the London Times, as to China's double-dealing. He stated that at the outset of the disturbance the imperial authorities were in sympathy with the anti-foreign element, but after the victory of the allies at Tien Tsin the disposition of the authorities changed, at least to the extent of not openly sympathizing with the outbreak.

Had the allies been defeated there is not a doubt that the ministers in Peking would have been abandoned to their fate by the imperial authorities. Now they are being held as hostages and not permitted to communicate with their governments, with the avowed object of stopping efforts on the part of the powers for their relief, the intimation being given out that their lives would be sacrificed by an onward march to Peking. It is unjust to characterize as barbarian a government capable of such conduct?

The advance on Peking has begun and it is safe to say that it will go on, unless the Chinese government shall comply with the fair demands that have been made upon it. If, on the other hand, that government shall carry out the implied threat to take the lives of the ministers it must expect a terrible retribution—perhaps a penalty no less than the destruction of the empire.

ANOTHER CANAL PROJECT.

The time limit for the construction of an interoceanic canal, under the concession given by Nicaragua to the Maritime Canal company, expired August 1, and on that date the Nicaraguan government took possession of the property of the company. By the terms of the concession the Maritime Canal company was allowed a period of ten years, after the completion of the preliminary surveys, in which to complete the construction of the canal. That period expired nearly two years ago. The company had done considerable work and was expecting to effect an arrangement for the transfer of its properties and privileges to the government of the United States, but the government of Nicaragua, foreseeing the failure of the company to comply with its contract, made another concession to what is known as the Cragin-Eyre syndicate, organized under the laws of New Jersey.

This latter concession was proclaimed by the president of Nicaragua three days ago and already a member of the syndicate has announced that it would proceed to carry out the terms of its contract without delay, the needed capital having been secured. The estimated cost of the undertaking is \$130,000,000, although it is stated the company has not selected the route. Under its concession it has the privilege of selecting any route within the domain of Nicaragua. The member of the syndicate who gave out these facts also stated that it was not the desire of the company to embarrass the government and it would defer to the government's conception of policy. It was further stated by him that the company would certainly give preference to the route preferred by the government.

Thus we have another isthmian canal project, started under a perpetual concession from Nicaragua, and it remains to be seen what the effect will be upon

THE PROPOSITION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CANAL BY THE UNITED STATES.

A Washington dispatch of a few days ago said it was believed there that the action taken by the Nicaraguan government was in pursuance of a speculative understanding with the Cragin-Eyre syndicate, which has for its object the sale of the concession to the United States government for \$2,000,000.

Intimations of this appeared in the canal discussions in committee and elsewhere during the last session of congress. There is very likely good reason for this view and notwithstanding the statement of a syndicate member that there is no desire to embarrass the government, it will be very surprising if when the Nicaraguan canal bill comes up for consideration at the next session of congress it is not found that the Cragin-Eyre concession is an obstacle which can be removed only by a liberal payment for the privileges it carries.

It is doubtful if this syndicate was organized with any other idea than milking the government.

A SIGNIFICANT EXHIBIT.

The compilation of the reports of the condition of the national banks of Nebraska, exclusive of Omaha and Lincoln, made in response to the comptroller's call for June 29, affords a gratifying exhibit of Nebraska's prosperity.

The striking feature of the compilation is to be found in the figures for the individual deposits in the custody of these banks, which have increased from \$18,298,192, as shown in the preceding statement for April, to \$19,548,351.

This means that the money credited to the individual depositors is greater by more than \$1,000,000 than it was three months ago.

To the same purport are the figures representing the holdings of gold coin, which aggregated \$728,085, a gain of nearly \$100,000 since April, while the average reserve held has also increased about 6 per cent, being now \$222 per cent.

The significance of this showing arises from the fact that the national banks of Nebraska, outside of Omaha and Lincoln, are almost entirely located in small cities and towns which are the centers of farming communities. When the deposits of these banks show an increase of more than a million dollars in three months it is an indication that the farmers and small tradesmen in the country towns, whose savings and profits are given over to the safe keeping of the local banks, are moving on the upward tide of prosperity.

What more conclusive proof could be asked that the benefits of prevailing prosperity are not confined to any one place or to any one class, but are distributed throughout the entire population.

THE GROWTH OF CITIES.

The figures given out by the census bureau so far for several cities whose enumeration has been completed disclose in each instance a shortage on what was expected by the people of the particular communities. If the same ratio is maintained with reference to the urban population throughout the country the percentage of increase is sure to be considerably less for the decade than it was for the ten years preceding the census of 1890.

When we come to review the figures of relative city and country growth since we began making regular census enumerations we will find that this falling off really conforms to the statistical average, because the figures produced by the 1890 census were abnormal and out of proportion.

In 1790, immediately after the adoption of the present constitution, but 3.35 per cent of the total population of the United States lived in cities having 8,000 or more inhabitants; only one city, Philadelphia, had over 40,000 inhabitants, and the entire city population of the country aggregated only 131,472.

In 1890 the cities had risen to 59.12 per cent of the entire enumerated population. Where in 1790 only six cities were assigned sufficient population to entitle them to be called urban, in 1890 443 were placed in that classification. The proportion of city residents had increased during the century from one-thirtieth to nearly one-third of the total population.

Up to 1880 the increase was quite regular, but in the ten years from 1880 to 1890 it made a leap from 22.57 per cent to 29.12 per cent, and the increase in the number of cities had never been greater in any one census period. It is already manifest, however, that in the figures relating to the growth of cities the new census is sure to be a disappointment, as compared with that of ten years ago, and it would not be surprising if the percentage of increase of rural population growth should exceed that of the urban population growth. If so, we will have this phenomenon for the first time in our history.

A number of commentators are attempting to explain this slower increase of city population during the decade just closed on the theory of the tendency toward the distribution of city population in suburban villages promoted by the extension of electric trolley lines. While this, no doubt, accounts to a certain extent for the discrepancy, it is not a complete answer.

Just previous to the 1890 census almost all the large cities, more particularly those in the west, undertook systematic expansion by the annexation of outlying districts. This artificial growth could not be repeated this year without enlarging the city boundaries beyond all reason.

Still another factor that should be reckoned with is the interruption in our foreign immigration, which, during the '80s, reached enormous proportions, and the bulk of the imported population concentrated in the cities. The addition from this source since 1890 has been much smaller, while the incentive for the foreign born inhabitants to leave the city for the country has been greater, particularly during the years of industrial depression.

While all these elements must be considered, we must not imagine that we have reached the limit of urban growth. The forces at work toward the concentration of population are increasing in their activity, although they constantly encounter limitations imposed by our industrial system. But the rate of increase for the cities of the entire country from now on is apt to be much slower than during the mushroom period between 1880 and 1890.

MR. BRYAN IN DEEP WATER.

Mr. Bryan is floundering in deep water. The virtue of moral courage and independence that was awarded to him for his stout refusal to surrender the holy ratio of 16 to 1 at the Kansas City convention against a round two-thirds majority of his subjugated following who favored it was an injustice to this man of many sides and many parties.

There was no courage about it. It was a straight gamble, a cold calculation. If he yielded to the demands of his party to subordinate silver by omitting all mention of the ratio in the platform, he knew, better than many another, that he would lose his own state, a possible seat in the senate and all pretense to future political leadership in both the state and country. In making that fatal decision he took the desperate chances of defeat for the presidency that he might provide himself with a safe line of retreat from political annihilation.

But this kind of water is shallow compared to the depths which await him on ground of his own choosing on the issue which he makes "paramount" in the contest. The essence of it concerns the war with Spain, the acquisition of the Philippines as an incident, and what he calls "imperialism," "imperialism," as a consequence of that war. Upon this question he will find the water very deep, for it was Mr. William Jennings Bryan who favored the war with Spain which led up to the resulting war in the Philippines and it was Mr. William Jennings Bryan who also influenced the ratification of the treaty of Paris by the senate which made the purchase of the islands for \$20,000,000 from Spain and the war with the Philippines possible.

Champ Clark, on the floor of the house, said: "We (the democrats) took you (the republicans) by the scruff of the neck" and forced you to declare war against Spain. Mr. Bryan was behind that action and had previously been upon the floor of the house in person to force democrats to take it. Nobody denies it, nobody doubts it, just as he went to the senate chamber at a later date to carry the ratification of the treaty of Paris, which had been lost but for his active efforts for its ratification.

Mr. Bryan may be as cunning as a fox and as quick as a panther in seeing and seizing points of vantage in the crooked navigation of political waters, but he is plainly floundering beyond his proper depths this time and the gurgle of defeat is already in his throat.

THE FUTURE OF ITALY.

The new king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel, assumes sovereignty under conditions which impose upon him a great task. He is a young man of fine requirements and excellent character, but his studies have not been directed to any considerable extent, to the affairs of state, politics and statecraft, if it is said, have had little attraction for him. He is therefore not well prepared for the work of statesmanship to which he must now give his almost constant attention—a work, too, that is certainly to be quite as difficult and possibly more difficult than that which his father had to perform. Not only in respect of the domestic affairs of Italy is the new king confronted by problems of the gravest nature, but there are international questions of great moment to be met.

The appeal of Victor Emmanuel to the loyalty and patriotism of the people will undoubtedly not be in vain. His desire to perpetuate the unity of the country will doubtless find general acquiescence. The assurances he gives of devotion to the policy of his predecessor and of a purpose to consecrate himself to the guardianship of liberty will be accepted as sincere. But unless something be done to relieve the people of the burdens that oppress them the reign of Victor Emmanuel may not be entirely peaceful. Italians now enjoy the unenviable distinction, writes a former secretary of legation at Rome, of being the most heavily taxed nation in Europe. Italy has a public debt the interest on which eats up half the revenues of the kingdom. This and the demands for the large army and navy and the other expenses of the government necessitates the imposition of heavy taxes, which bear with especial severity upon the poorer classes, who are burdened with 50 per cent of the national tribute. While in the majority of instances luxuries escape, or are but lightly touched, the very essentials of life, such as corn, salt, petroleum, etc., are exorbitantly taxed. Indeed, the entire system of taxation in Italy appears to be devised to oppress the common people. Such a system very naturally conduces to the creation of a revolutionary spirit among the people.

The operative forces of the Italian struggle for national independence and constitutional liberty were essentially democratic," says a writer, "and the national sentiment and institutions are nominally so today. Yet we find not only successive governments, but even the local administrations of communes and provinces, following in practice a diametrically opposite course. For instance, in the south the rich pay no tax, because, it is argued, such luxuries cost money, but bring in no pecuniary return. On the other hand, the donkey of the peasant, which carries his produce to market, or draws his plow, being considered an implement of labor, and consequently a source of gain, must pay the tax. No wonder there is widespread dissatisfaction among the people.

The writer above quoted says that what is imperatively demanded in Italy is social, financial, economical and administrative reform. There are great difficulties in the way of effecting such

reform, but certainly the new king could in no way more surely commend himself to the loyal confidence and support of the people than by exerting himself to bring about the needed reform. If he shall fail to do this—if he shall show himself indifferent to the burdens that oppress the people—popular discontent will increase and Italy's future will be filled with trouble.

OF COURSE ATTORNEY GENERAL SMYTH COMES TO THE RESCUE WITH AN OFFICIAL OPINION ADVISING THAT THE SALARY CLAIMS OF THE DO-NOTHING STATE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS ARE PERFECTLY VALID WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE RULING OF THE FEDERAL COURT THAT THE BOARD HAS NO LEGAL EXISTENCE. IT WOULD BE ALTOGETHER TOO GREAT A HARDSHIP TO COMPEL THE \$6,000-A-YEAR FUSION FAVORITES TO AWAIT AN AUTHORITY DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT BEFORE CALLING ON THE STATE TREASURER. IT IS SURPRISING, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD THINK IT WORTH WHILE TO TURN ASIDE FROM HIS VALOROUS PURSUIT OF THE TRUSTS LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE UP THE DEFENSE OF THE RAILWAY COMMISSION TAXERS.

The acknowledgment by the new king of Italy of the message of condolence transmitted by President McKinley on the occasion of the assassination of his father is not only an appropriate testimonial of appreciation, but also extends the hand, figuratively speaking, for a continuance and strengthening of close friendly relations between the two nations. While the United States and Italy are not now threatened with conflict of interest in any field it is always better for nations, as well as individuals, to have the good will and co-operation of their associates rather than their ill-will and obstruction.

The reports of the various railroad systems, particularly those traversing the western states, continue to note a gratifying increase of business in their comparative figures with last year. Progressive prosperity is the only way to designate the continuous forward march made by the agricultural interests in the transmississippi country since McKinley entered the White House.

Word comes from one of the companies of the Nebraska National Guard that it is drilling daily in the hope and expectation of being called out for service in China. This does not look as if the experience of the First Nebraska in the Philippines were exerting any very depressing effect upon the present members of the state militia.

Mr. Bryan's speech of acceptance, it is announced, will contain about 8,000 words. Even with this he is unable to explain just why he is running for president, but will later write a formal letter. It will take many times 8,000 words to set forth any legitimate reason why he should be elected.

The number of republican clubs being formed over the state and the enthusiasm displayed this early in the campaign have given the popocrats a violent attack of that tired feeling.

CIGAR FAMINE AVERTED.

The tobacco crop in Cuba is the greatest known in years, and the cabbage crop in the west is also said to be splendid, so there will be no cigar famine this season.

UNANIMOUS OPINION.

A Washington dispatch says it is unanimously believed in diplomatic circles there that Sheng, Chinese director of telegraphs at Shanghai, is a liar. The American public reached that conclusion unanimously some time ago.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

It is estimated that the golf balls used annually in this country cost \$500,000. Owing, however, to the fact that the people who use them are apt to say the money there is no present cause for alarm or a platform plank on the subject.

NO APOLOGUES NECESSARY.

The republicans of Iowa have no apologies to make for their state and national administrations, nor for the candidates who have been nominated for the continuation of those administrations. Each marks the greatest excellence in state and national governments.

HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN ADRIAN'S AX.

It develops that some of the Nebraska populists who once were republican postmasters felt the force of Mr. Stevenson's ax when the candidate for the vice presidency was in the Postoffice department. The withdrawal of Trowe in favor of Stevenson is pretty certain to drive these and many other populists to the support of the middle-of-the-road branch.

THE ANARCHIST.

"He was not strong," says the American wife of the murderer of King Humbert. "He was afraid of a mouse. He wouldn't have had the courage to commit such an act." The anarchist all over—timid, cowardly, weak. Afraid of a mouse, but not afraid to slay a king! In ninety-nine cases out of one hundred the anarchist is an insane criminal. What is to be done with him and his kind? Hanging one doesn't deter the others from murder, although it may inspire with wholesome fear the relatively sane persons whose reckless utterances excite their fury. They exist in every city in the world—a powder magazine which the torch of an incendiary editor or a spark from the speech of a reckless orator may stir to a fearful activity!

EVIDENCE OF MISSIONARY SUCCESS.

The inaccuracy of the claim that the Christian missionaries in China win no converts is shown in the dispatches which detail the massacre of hundreds of native Christians. Indeed, the brief reports from Peking state that native Christians were fighting side by side with the legion guards, and their casualties were reported in the same way as those of the marine contingents. China is a hard field for proselyting, it is true. The proportion of converts to the population is very small, but it is a mistake to say that the efforts of the missionaries have met with no response. It is their success, such as it is, which has aroused the murderous anti-foreign sentiment of China. Yet there are persons who continue to assert that there are no Chinese converts to Christianity worthy of the name. When men and women die for their faith—as these hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Chinese have done—rather than renounce Christianity, the cause must be making headway.

NEW KING OF ITALY.

The new king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel, Prince of Naples, has been subjected to much facetious criticism. The Kaiser once dubbed him "a man who read encyclopedias and ate garlic." Victor is known all over Europe for his taste for garlic. Eight years ago the European papers commented on the breaking of the supposed betrothal between the prince and Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria. It was said that the prince had disliked the smell of garlic. An attempt was made to prove this assertion by the publication of a private letter which the princess was alleged to have written announcing to a confidant the breaking of the engagement. In this letter the princess was reported to have said: "Victor is a sweet and aliken youth with a fine taste for Shakespeare, music and garlic."

At another time the Kaiser called Victor "the wandering royal encyclopedist."

The new king's attainments in literature, art and music are the result of boyhood studiousness, due largely to his ill-health. Queen Margherita is reported once to have complained that the king was bringing up the prince on "broth and books." Prior to the prince's 10th birthday he spent most of his time in a garret of the palace. Later the king insisted that his growth should be stimulated by exercise. He was made to rise at daybreak and then given prolonged exercise on horseback. In spite of the fact that he is but five feet tall, the prince in later years showed much of the spirit of the adventure of his father. On his 20th birthday anniversary, ten years ago, he made a tour through Africa and Asia.

Scattered through the magazines of Europe and the United States are stories told of Humbert's predilection for adventure. His courage influenced his deeds and preferences and his faults. He sought danger, but not without some purpose. Anecdotes told of him recount his tendency to seize from the most trivial occurrence some dramatic situation.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

President Loubet of France, according to Parisian rumor, is to pay a visit to St. Petersburg early in the fall.

The pope has written a Latin hymn in memory of all the martyrs who have died in advancing the civilization of the world.

General Cronje, on hearing of the capture of Pretoria, is reported to have remarked: "It had to end so. I saw it from the first and I think we all did."

Dr. Carl K. Swenson, president of Bethany college, Lindsborg, Kan., has declined the presidency of Augustana college, Rock Island, Ill., to which he was recently elected.

A bust of Sir John Thompson, formerly minister of justice in Nova Scotia, was unveiled the other day in Halifax. It is the work of a Canadian sculptor, Philippe Herbert, living in Paris.

Dr. M. H. Reynolds, who made a national reputation as state veterinarian of Minnesota, has been appointed dean of the veterinary department of the new Iowa State Agricultural college.

Secretary of War Elihu Root is an expert chess player and he generally amuses himself during his unoccupied evenings either by a game with a friend or in solving some particularly difficult problem.

Dr. Mary Walker went bathing at Manhattan beach, Long Island, last week and surprised everybody by her skill as swimmer and diver. The doctor can do all kinds of tricks in the water.

James S. Barke of Missouri is the sole survivor of the expedition of 1847 for the relief of General Zachary Taylor in the City of Mexico. He rode on horseback from Missouri to Austin, Tex., to enlist in Colonel Hayes' regiment.

Colonel Samuel B. Sumner, Sixth United States cavalry, has been relieved, at his own request, from duty in London as military attaché, in order that he may join his regiment, which is now on the Pacific en route to Tien Tsin, China.

The guest of honor at the Old Home celebration in Buckfield, Me., on August 11, will be Secretary Long, or "Johnnie Long," as the citizens affectionately call him. He was born there and even today knows many of its citizens personally.

Governor Roosevelt is stopping over between trains in Chicago the other day, found time to slip out to a book store and buy a large package of books. He always takes several with him when traveling and reads constantly while on the train.

Charles Aaron S. Daggett, who is in command of the Fourteenth infantry now on the way from Manila to China, has the reputation of being one of the most pious men in the army. He does not smoke, nor drink, nor swear, nor gamble. He is 53 years old and is a native of Maine.

CHARACTERISTICS OF IOWA.

Hopelessly Sane, Moral, Intelligent, Industrious and Loyal. Chicago Tribune.

Citizens of the sovereign state of Iowa will find their charming commonwealth dissected and described in delightful literary style in the August Atlantic. Rollin Lynde Hart performs the task with a rare combination of humor and admiring rallery. After lightly sketching the uneventful history of the state and chronicling the early agricultural mistakes of the settlers, he tells how they finally obeyed the injunction to "go to grass," and have prospered amazingly ever since. They took to grass, raised cows to eat it and began making butter for the nations. "From prairie grass to wheat, from wheat to clover, from clover to corn—such are the short and simple annals of the Iowans."

Mr. Hart thinks the motto of Iowa should be "Cornucopia—plenty of corn." He even attempts to put all Iowa into three nouns—corn, cows and hog—but renounces annexing it, that there are many other good things in Iowa. For instance, there is the retired farmer, who flourishes numerously and dwells prosperously in Iowa's innumerable small towns. In New England retirement means defeat; in Iowa it means triumph. In New England the drift toward the cities is a struggle for self-preservation; in Iowa it is a movement toward luxury and reposeful ease. The heavens above, and the earth beneath, and the minerals under, the earth have all been kind to the Iowans.

But Mr. Hart has one fault to find with the Iowans—the cyclones. It is the monotonous goodness of the citizens. He complains that the people are so uniformly respectable that they will attempt nothing quite so piratical. They refuse to be picturesque. They are so prosily conventional that if by chance they do anything unusual they undo it next day. If Des Moines passes an ordinance to put itself to bed by curfew at 11, the mayor announces it if the state abolishes capital punishment, it straightway repeals. If it adopts prohibition, it is soon found coming at least half way back. Think of a state that will build a \$3,000,000 capitol and not steal a penny! Praise be to American commonwealth without a state debt!

In this strain does Mr. Hart lament, pronouncing the state "gravely commonplace, distressingly normal, hopelessly sane. You have a high level, but a dead level; it is even. Even the Quakers of Penn college conform to convention in playing foot ball and lay aside their creed of nonresistance, not even pausing in a center rush to ask, "Does this mind if I slug thou?" Iowa is hopelessly sane, moral, intelligent, industrious and loyal—the despair of the novelist or the seeker after the amazing. "Happily this state of Iowa, so typical of the broad, fertile, populous valley of the upper Mississippi, stands representative of the bulk of our population."

THE FARMER'S GAIN.

Condition of Agricultural Interests Shows Evidence of Prosperity.

While the revival of prosperity which began simultaneously with the restoration of republican control is manifest in every branch of trade and industry, its most remarkable feature is to be found in the condition of agricultural interests. The farmer was almost the last to experience the general improvement in business. He had passed through three or four years of hard times, low prices and unprofitable work, and when the boom began it found him in severe distress.

It is interesting, therefore, to compare the condition of the farmer today with what it was five years ago. The statistics of the increase in the value of farm products during the period from 1895 to 1900 are positively bewildering. The corn crop advanced in value from \$44,983,534 to \$62,210,110 or 18 per cent; wheat from \$27,208,988 to \$39,548,259, or 44 per cent; oats from \$16,658,068 to \$19,167,575, or 16 per cent; cotton from \$260,238,099 to \$322,000,000, or 24 per cent; tobacco from \$35,574,220 to \$47,000,000, or 30 per cent, and fax from \$12,000,000 to \$24,000,000, or 100 per cent. During this period the value of the live stock in the country has increased by \$63,000,000.

In the value of the staples named above the farmers are worth \$1,000,000,000 more than they were five years ago. If to this sum were added the amounts paid in the cancellation of debt, the improvement of property and the money deposited in banks we should find that the prosperity boom which came in when Cleveland's free trade policy went out has increased the agricultural wealth of the country by the far more than \$2,000,000,000. These figures are the farmer's reply to the calamity cry that the gold standard means ruin, and they are bound to do some very convincing arguing during the approaching campaign.