

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$5.00. Daily Bee and Sunday Bee, One Year, \$6.00.

DELIVERED BY CARRIER. Daily Bee (without Sunday), per copy, 2c. Daily Bee (with Sunday), per copy, 3c.

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—City Hall Building, Twenty-fifth and M streets.

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

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George H. Tschacher, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning Bee, during the month of December, 1901, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation numbers and corresponding values. Total 943,255. Less unsold and returned copies, 10,008.

Not total sales, 933,157. Net daily average, 30,101. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, A. D. 1901, M. B. MCNEALE, Notary Public.

Happy New Year. Same to you, sir. Now, all at once—turn over.

Wonder if Maclay could be induced to swear off. Two years more yet for the leap year girl to wait.

The year 1902 ought to be an easy one for rhymesters. Figures talk when the achievements of one year are placed for comparison beside those of previous years.

The battleship Missouri has taken to water. The other Missourians, however, will still have to be shown.

The United States possesses two-fifths of all the railway mileage in the world and still there is room for more.

It is useless to attempt to drown the old year's sorrows on the advent of the new. They multiply under the drenching process like mosquitoes on a hot summer day.

Evidence is accumulating that affairs are assuming their natural condition in China. The latest proof of this is the report of a massacre of missionaries and native converts.

The Pan-American conference is working away on an arbitration scheme. No action is expected until Chile and Argentine fully make up their minds whether they desire to scrimmage.

Anyone having a few warships, either new or second-hand, can find a market for them by addressing the governments of Chile or Argentina. Lack of them is delaying the game in South America.

The committee which is planning a model city for exhibition at the St. Louis exposition is in session in New York. Up to the present Richard Croker has not been called in to offer suggestions.

What promises to perplex Secretary of the Treasury Shaw most is how to take care of the surplus. None of his democratic predecessors in the Treasury department were troubled very much that way.

An organization has just been formed with the object of promoting boxing bouts—in common parlance prize fights—in this city. Omaha can get along fairly well without entertainments of this kind during the new year.

The United States starts out the year 1902 with the balance on the right side of the ledger. The people are satisfied with the operating crew of the country and those who are working for a change are likely to receive scant encouragement.

Study The Bee's statistical panorama of the growth and progress of Omaha for the past year. It is an interesting and instructive exhibit. Copies of the paper sent to your friends will be the most convincing messenger of the city's substantial prosperity.

A Klondike miner has at last returned who is willing to admit that while he has a few good claims, the country is not the land of gold he was originally led to believe. But he will probably offer to let a few confidential friends in on those claims on the ground floor.

The Creek Indians are dissatisfied with the plan for allotment of their lands. Possibly the Indians would make satisfaction if the government would make an appropriation for a hired man for each Indian who would relieve the native of the burden of working the land.

THE NEW YEAR

The march of time is continuous and uninterrupted. The instant that marks the close of one year records the beginning of another. But we note the progress of time by days, weeks, months and years and we count the years as milestones along the path of life.

So said the sage. Whether or not the year that begins today will bring us good or ill, prosperity or misfortune, we cannot foresee, yet it is welcomed with a general hope of improvement and betterment, as well as a general purpose to improve. It is a time for making plans, projects and resolutions—some practical and attainable, others fanciful and doomed to failure.

Also, for retrospection and introspection and out of this there should come some good results. It may enable us to in the future avoid the mistakes of the past and to correct those follies which have operated to our disadvantage and injury. It is a common observation that the resolutions made at the beginning of the year are for the most part speedily broken, yet if only a small proportion of them are kept there is good done not alone to the individuals, but to society.

It would be very discouraging to think otherwise. The year 1902 begins with every promise of a continuance of prosperity for the American people. There is no cloud upon our horizon, no danger threatens us. We are warranted, therefore, in looking hopefully and confidently to the future. The Bee wishes for all its patrons a happy and prosperous New Year.

NO TROUBLE WITH GERMANY.

The reports that have gone out from Washington indicating a feeling of apprehension there of a disturbance of friendly relations between Germany and the United States, growing out of the efforts of Germany to collect a debt from Venezuela, are shown to be entirely groundless. The German foreign office has promptly given out a statement that the assurance given by the government regarding its plans in relation to Venezuela are entirely satisfactory to our government and that Germany, which maintains diplomatic relations with Venezuela, still hopes to collect her claims peacefully.

The German foreign office also reiterated the declaration that it does not contemplate territorial acquisition in Venezuela, which ought to dispel completely any doubt that may have existed on that point. There is not the least reason, therefore, to fear any difficulty or misunderstanding between this country and Germany in regard to the Venezuelan incident. The German government has shown the greatest desire to avoid anything that might be objectionable to the United States, its manifestation of solicitude in this respect being marked, if not indeed quite unparalleled.

No stronger evidence could be wished than has been given by Germany of her earnest desire to maintain the cordial relations which exist between the two countries and our government and people fully appreciate this. We shall not become involved in this matter for the obvious reason that it is none of our business. We do not undertake to protect any of the republics of this hemisphere in the refusal to pay their just debts and it is not denied that in this case the claim is just, though the Venezuelan government seeks to avoid payment by alleging that the debt is due to citizens of Germany and not to the government. That is a pretext, however, which is not to be seriously considered. Germany may collect her debt in any way that accords with the usages of civilized nations, provided she respects the Monroe doctrine and this she intends to do.

SUGAR TO THE FRONT.

It is now strongly indicated that the reassembling of congress next week will be the signal for a spirited controversy in the senate over the Philippine and Cuban tariff situations, with sugar occupying the foreground in the discussion. The Philippine tariff bill passed by the house does not deal with the staple products of the islands that are made the subject of an appeal from the commission for reduced duties. A movement is said to be on foot to get the senate to reduce the duty on Philippine sugar by one-half, or establish the equivalent of an entire removal of the present duty. A number of republican senators feel that some concessions should be given to these new possessions. In order to stimulate the industries there and thus make American raw materials palatable. It is therefore probable that the recommendations of the Taft commission in this direction, which have the support of the administration, will command attention in the senate. Eastern sugar interests, it appears, take it for granted that on sugar coming from the Philippines the Dingley duties will be reduced one-half.

As to Cuba there is greater uncertainty, so far as can be gathered from Washington advices. There is said to be a considerable group of senators, some of whom have beet sugar factories in their own states, who are willing to give the Cuban cane growers a chance. It is alleged that these senators maintain that the existing tariff against Cuban sugar is so high as to provide a wholly artificial stimulus to the beet sugar industry and that with some concession to Cuba there would be all the protection on our domestic industry that was healthful. This view, it is needless to say, is not approved by those who are engaged in the home industry and they will combat it vigorously, though whether effectively or not is problematical. The newest suggestion in the matter is the payment of a bounty to the Cuban sugar growers and this is said to be gathering headway.

ONE-HALF TO ONE-HALF A CENT A POUND

It is estimated that a bounty of from one-half to one-half a cent a pound would meet the complaint of the Cubans and satisfy them. On the basis of the imports during the past year a bounty of one-half a cent a pound would aggregate the sum of \$7,000,000, approximately 50 per cent of the duty collected last year on Cuban sugar. It seems improbable, however, that congress will adopt this novel suggestion for taking money out of the national treasury and giving it as a bounty to the sugar growers of another country.

A New York paper remarks that there has never been a time when so many rumors connecting the sugar industry with efforts to influence national legislation have been current and it is very plain that the sugar question is to occupy a very prominent place in the attention of congress, with the chances, as now indicated, strongly favorable to concessions to the sugar of both Cuba and the Philippines, though possibly not to the extent urged by the more radical advocates of such a policy. A compromise of views is what may be expected.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING.

The scheme of a bank that will be absolutely international in its scope is by no means a new proposition, but it is one that has not received a great deal of consideration. The matter has been discussed in the congress in session at the City of Mexico and the question is of such importance that it has divided the congress in regard to it.

There is urged in regard to the proposition that while it might have beneficial results and probably would have a good effect in cultivating financial and commercial relations between the United States and the southern countries, still on the other hand it would possibly create financial complications of a more or less troublesome nature. It is not difficult to conceive of conditions, in the operations of such an institution as is proposed, that would produce entanglements, particularly in the event of its being controlled by an international arrangement, as contemplated.

It is manifestly desirable that there should be a financial institution through which exchanges could be effected between American and South American merchants without having to go the roundabout way of London. That process is not only dilatory, but it is also costly. There is no good reason why it should be continued except that for the time being it is convenient. The sooner it is gotten rid of the better and it ought to be possible for American enterprise to do away with it at an early date. There is a project that promises to be successful to establish banks in the Orient and the expediency of doing this appears to be unquestionable. We cannot prosecute our trade in the far east without having capital in that quarter of the world that is at all times available for our merchants doing business there. That is a self-evident proposition. It is equally clear that we must have financial institutions in the countries south of us, just as our commercial rivals have such institutions there. In other words, if we expect to win our share of the business of any part of the world we must be prepared to contest for it on the same lines and by the same policies that are employed by other nations. We need to understand all the time, what we seem not to have sufficiently thought of in the past, that there is no sentiment in business and that in order to obtain the trade of any country we have to apply business principles. This is the idea that is comprehended in the scheme to establish American banks in the Orient and it is a practical idea, which if carried out will have good results.

The redoubtable Webster Davis is trying to resurrect himself into notoriety by indulging himself in most invidious remarks upon President Roosevelt and predicting that he will be renominated for the presidency and defeated. The worst thing he says about the president is, "While in Washington, I was on even footing with Mr. Roosevelt. He was like myself, an assistant secretary in the cabinet." The wonderful Mr. Davis need, however, have no computations on that score. He will never be on even footing with Mr. Roosevelt again, because, while the president has been going steadily upward, Webster Davis has been going steadily downward in the estimation of all those whose esteem is worth having.

Hugh Bonner of New York has been chosen as the new chief of the Manila fire department. Bonner has a reputation as a fire fighter second to no man in the world. If he can train the Filipinos to turn out to a fire as fast as they have been in the habit of running at the approach of American soldiers he will have a little the most rapid fire department in the world. The failure of the asphalt trust is explained that it fell short of the assumption on which it was built, namely, that it had a complete monopoly on the asphalt paving business of the country. The monopoly theory is at the basis of the most of the trusts and it is equally fallacious to prove with many others a rope of sand instead of a foundation rock.

If Webster Davis thinks he can make capital for the cause of the Boers by personal attacks upon President Roosevelt the friends of the president will lend no countenance to Mr. Davis and those of his class without regard to whether or not they are posing as the champions of the oppressed Boers.

Heroes in the Shade.

The people of Cuba hissed Gomez the other day. Really, it is worth while being a hero, any more?

Whom to Pardon in Private Life.

Hon. Lyman Gage will now proceed to enjoy the rest of an emolument which comes to the statesman in private life. The example of Hon. John G. Carlisle and Hon. Thomas B. Reed had fair to be generously followed.

Doing Quite Well, Thank You.

Iowa seems to be doing fairly well. This latest addition to its increasing influence in the nation's councils is received with general satisfaction, east and west.

Timber Further West.

Chicago Inter-Ocean. There is a feeling in Nebraska that if President Roosevelt wants to touch the palpitating heart of the great west he need not confine his touching altogether to Iowa.

A Chinese Spectacle.

Chicago Post. Thousands of Chinese troops are commanded to kneel along the line of railway and to the gate of the Forbidden City as the court approaches, and others Pekin need to bow before their monarch and their barbarians when such degrading ceremonies as this are ordered?

Great Minds Disagree.

Indianapolis Journal. When it is remembered that every man believes his own method the best, it is not surprising to read that the civil commission in the Philippines believes in civil government, while General Chaffee sees in the military the best authority to handle the Filipinos.

Dewey's Brilliant Dash.

Minneapolis Journal. General Dewey seems to have lost none of his cunning and energy as a partisan leader. His complete overthrow and capture of a British column of 400 men on Christmas eve, together with the capture of two guns, was a daring and brilliant feat which will more than offset some recent British successes gained through skillful adaptation of Boer tactics.

Progress of the Trolley.

New York Tribune. It is now practically assured that within a few years trolley lines will carry passengers between New York and Boston and between New York and Buffalo without change of cars, and at an average speed of at least twenty miles an hour and at moderate fares. What a nation of travellers within their own borders Americans will be!

No Great Armament Needed.

New York Evening Post. It is time that all who believe in keeping the United States free from a heavy military burden should handpick the great nations of Europe, morally as well as financially and industrially, should make themselves heard. There is no evidence that the American people as a whole desire anything more than a strictly defensive navy, and the existing fleet has gone beyond this limit. This country has never performed a greater service to the world than by demonstrating its ability to get on without great armaments.

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

New Year's day has become a secular-religious festival. The custom of watching the old and watching in the new year is more general and interesting than it used to be. Fifty years ago but a single denomination observed this custom, and for a century it has been the custom that anything out of the common was in progress. The celebration began after New Year's day had dawned and was almost entirely social. It has of late years grown in the religious mind that the observance of New Year is not only proper, but that the watch service is peculiarly appropriate. Many denominations have adopted the custom. Man makes the arbitrary division of time comprised in a year, but it is computed in accordance with the physical laws ordained by the Creator, and its conclusion and the immediate accession of another year give a most excellent opportunity for religious reflections.

A man can look back over a year and recall all the salient features of his career during that time. He can perceive what acts, words or courses of conduct did him good or harm or conferred blessings on others, or the reverse. An intelligent person can generally gauge in this way the success or non-success due to his own acts. As a rule that which has hampered him or retarded his progress has been a violation of some law of God's ordinances. There are cases, perhaps, where success in life has nothing to do with religion, but in a majority of instances those who are unsuccessful owe their failure to a disregard of obvious principles in which religion is more or less a factor.

For those who are imbued with a sincere religion this annual retrospection is a grave hour, and it is likely to be all the more useful and impressive when accompanied by solemn religious exercises teaching where man's true dependence lies. The resolutions made on New Year's day or day preceding form a personal subject for self, but this should not deter serious persons from forming them. Where everybody makes resolutions some are sure to break them. It should always be borne in mind that countless thousands have made resolutions and kept them, without deviation. The proportion of those who adhere to them is so large, perhaps, as the proportion of good to the actually bad. But a man who breaks a resolution is not necessarily bad. He is weak and vacillating, but if he has kept it even a short while he has done himself good by giving tone to his nature. The proper thing for him to do is to keep on making it whenever he breaks it, until he has developed strength enough to keep it permanently.

New Year's day has its temptations. They are not as great now as formerly, but they are still formidable. There are those who break their resolutions on New Year's day and never break them at any other time. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT WORK.

Washington Post. Warship construction in Navy yards and by private firms. Scientific American. Popular delusions die hard, and one of the most pernicious and persistent of these is the belief that warship construction when done by the government is poorly done and costs more than it does at private yards. There was a time, it is true, when the navy ships constructed in government yards, largely by the efforts of the present chief constructor, Rear Admiral Bowles, our navy yards have been entirely emancipated from politics and the organization, plant, discipline and character of work turned out have been brought up to a standard that is fully equal to that of the best private establishments.

The naval constructors believe, and we fully agree with them, that the time has come when it would be to the nation's advantage to have a certain proportion of its ships constructed in government yards. The plant and the working staff at New York and Boston have been brought up to such a state of efficiency that the largest battleships could be constructed with economy and great efficiency. The high cost of "extras," maine and other government built ships cannot be quoted against this statement, since those vessels were built before the yards were reorganized and when the plant was old and inefficient. The construction of ships in government yards would have a two-fold advantage. It would stimulate private builders to exhibit some of that dispatch, which has recently become so conspicuously absent (some of our battleships are a year and a half and our torpedo boats two and a half to three years behind their contract date) and it would be possible to keep the well-trained navy yards continuously at work, instead of having to discharge a large part of them whenever routine repair work is slack.

The practice of building some of the warships in government yards is followed to advantage in the leading European navies. We should adopt it here.

PERSONAL NOTES. Senator Clark is reported to have taken only ninety minutes in spending \$200,000 for paintings in New York the other day.

"Chicago, thy name is mud," exclaims the Tribune. "Chicago is the ideal spot for those who would be entirely happy," pipes the Inter Ocean. Between these extremes safety lies in holding the water.

Maraden J. Perry, the Providence, R. I. banker, owns the finest Shakespearean library in America. It cost him over \$50,000, and its collection was brought together through the aid of the city of Providence.

The Connecticut savings banks increased their deposits the past year by \$5,000,000, bringing the total up to \$133,000,000 in round numbers. But of this sum only \$7,000,000 belongs to depositors who own less than \$100 each to their credit.

The Boston postoffice officials and employees are taking great credit to themselves and finding much satisfaction in the fact that there was not a single piece of mail remaining in the office to be delivered after the carriers had started out on their last burdensome trip on Christmas morning.

John D. Crimmins of New York City has had conferred upon him by the pope, in recognition of distinguished services to the Roman Catholic church, the title of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory, the Great of the Holy See. This is one of the highest titles which can be given to a layman.

Mayor Jerome Dewitt of Birmingham, N. Y., is doing such a thriving business in marrying couples eloping from Pennsylvania that he has established two of his office employees, a man and a young woman, as permanent best man and bridesmaid respectively so as to give future couples all the comforts of a home wedding.

Captain William Campbell, said to be the last of the long line of famous old Mississippi river steamboat masters between New Orleans and Vicksburg, died in New Orleans on Sunday, December 22, in his seventy-second year. He began steamboating at thirteen years of age, and continued in it until two weeks before his death.

A family of five generations celebrated Christmas together in Allouez, Penn. Their ages ranged from eighty-seven years down to ten months. The several representatives of the five generations are: Mrs. Sarah A. McClelland, aged eighty-seven years; her son, William McClelland, aged sixty-three years; his daughter, Mrs. Anna Price, aged forty years; her daughter, Mrs. Carrie Snow, aged nineteen years, and little Esther May Snow, her daughter, aged ten months.

Roosevelt Not an Imitator.

Detroit Free Press. Concede that the president is not always the counter. Admit that, because of his wonderful celerity in going to the meat of a question and measuring its merits, and because of the impetuosity of a nature that is always striving for results, he does not stop to employ the redundancy of diplomatic language. The vital question is as to what he does, not as to how he does it. The representative of the supreme bench who was offended was asking something he should have been ashamed of, and General Miles, to put it as mildly as the truth will admit, was undoubtedly right in declining to wait for a private interview, as requested by his superior officer. There is something refreshing in having a president who is not an imitator.

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

New Year's day has become a secular-religious festival. The custom of watching the old and watching in the new year is more general and interesting than it used to be. Fifty years ago but a single denomination observed this custom, and for a century it has been the custom that anything out of the common was in progress. The celebration began after New Year's day had dawned and was almost entirely social. It has of late years grown in the religious mind that the observance of New Year is not only proper, but that the watch service is peculiarly appropriate. Many denominations have adopted the custom. Man makes the arbitrary division of time comprised in a year, but it is computed in accordance with the physical laws ordained by the Creator, and its conclusion and the immediate accession of another year give a most excellent opportunity for religious reflections.

A man can look back over a year and recall all the salient features of his career during that time. He can perceive what acts, words or courses of conduct did him good or harm or conferred blessings on others, or the reverse. An intelligent person can generally gauge in this way the success or non-success due to his own acts. As a rule that which has hampered him or retarded his progress has been a violation of some law of God's ordinances. There are cases, perhaps, where success in life has nothing to do with religion, but in a majority of instances those who are unsuccessful owe their failure to a disregard of obvious principles in which religion is more or less a factor.

For those who are imbued with a sincere religion this annual retrospection is a grave hour, and it is likely to be all the more useful and impressive when accompanied by solemn religious exercises teaching where man's true dependence lies. The resolutions made on New Year's day or day preceding form a personal subject for self, but this should not deter serious persons from forming them. Where everybody makes resolutions some are sure to break them. It should always be borne in mind that countless thousands have made resolutions and kept them, without deviation. The proportion of those who adhere to them is so large, perhaps, as the proportion of good to the actually bad. But a man who breaks a resolution is not necessarily bad. He is weak and vacillating, but if he has kept it even a short while he has done himself good by giving tone to his nature. The proper thing for him to do is to keep on making it whenever he breaks it, until he has developed strength enough to keep it permanently.

ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT WORK.

Washington Post. Warship construction in Navy yards and by private firms. Scientific American. Popular delusions die hard, and one of the most pernicious and persistent of these is the belief that warship construction when done by the government is poorly done and costs more than it does at private yards. There was a time, it is true, when the navy ships constructed in government yards, largely by the efforts of the present chief constructor, Rear Admiral Bowles, our navy yards have been entirely emancipated from politics and the organization, plant, discipline and character of work turned out have been brought up to a standard that is fully equal to that of the best private establishments.

The naval constructors believe, and we fully agree with them, that the time has come when it would be to the nation's advantage to have a certain proportion of its ships constructed in government yards. The plant and the working staff at New York and Boston have been brought up to such a state of efficiency that the largest battleships could be constructed with economy and great efficiency. The high cost of "extras," maine and other government built ships cannot be quoted against this statement, since those vessels were built before the yards were reorganized and when the plant was old and inefficient. The construction of ships in government yards would have a two-fold advantage. It would stimulate private builders to exhibit some of that dispatch, which has recently become so conspicuously absent (some of our battleships are a year and a half and our torpedo boats two and a half to three years behind their contract date) and it would be possible to keep the well-trained navy yards continuously at work, instead of having to discharge a large part of them whenever routine repair work is slack.

The practice of building some of the warships in government yards is followed to advantage in the leading European navies. We should adopt it here.

PERSONAL NOTES. Senator Clark is reported to have taken only ninety minutes in spending \$200,000 for paintings in New York the other day.

"Chicago, thy name is mud," exclaims the Tribune. "Chicago is the ideal spot for those who would be entirely happy," pipes the Inter Ocean. Between these extremes safety lies in holding the water.

Maraden J. Perry, the Providence, R. I. banker, owns the finest Shakespearean library in America. It cost him over \$50,000, and its collection was brought together through the aid of the city of Providence.

The Connecticut savings banks increased their deposits the past year by \$5,000,000, bringing the total up to \$133,000,000 in round numbers. But of this sum only \$7,000,000 belongs to depositors who own less than \$100 each to their credit.

The Boston postoffice officials and employees are taking great credit to themselves and finding much satisfaction in the fact that there was not a single piece of mail remaining in the office to be delivered after the carriers had started out on their last burdensome trip on Christmas morning.

John D. Crimmins of New York City has had conferred upon him by the pope, in recognition of distinguished services to the Roman Catholic church, the title of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory, the Great of the Holy See. This is one of the highest titles which can be given to a layman.

Mayor Jerome Dewitt of Birmingham, N. Y., is doing such a thriving business in marrying couples eloping from Pennsylvania that he has established two of his office employees, a man and a young woman, as permanent best man and bridesmaid respectively so as to give future couples all the comforts of a home wedding.

Captain William Campbell, said to be the last of the long line of famous old Mississippi river steamboat masters between New Orleans and Vicksburg, died in New Orleans on Sunday, December 22, in his seventy-second year. He began steamboating at thirteen years of age, and continued in it until two weeks before his death.

A family of five generations celebrated Christmas together in Allouez, Penn. Their ages ranged from eighty-seven years down to ten months. The several representatives of the five generations are: Mrs. Sarah A. McClelland, aged eighty-seven years; her son, William McClelland, aged sixty-three years; his daughter, Mrs. Anna Price, aged forty years; her daughter, Mrs. Carrie Snow, aged nineteen years, and little Esther May Snow, her daughter, aged ten months.

Roosevelt Not an Imitator.

Detroit Free Press. Concede that the president is not always the counter. Admit that, because of his wonderful celerity in going to the meat of a question and measuring its merits, and because of the impetuosity of a nature that is always striving for results, he does not stop to employ the redundancy of diplomatic language. The vital question is as to what he does, not as to how he does it. The representative of the supreme bench who was offended was asking something he should have been ashamed of, and General Miles, to put it as mildly as the truth will admit, was undoubtedly right in declining to wait for a private interview, as requested by his superior officer. There is something refreshing in having a president who is not an imitator.

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

New Year's day has become a secular-religious festival. The custom of watching the old and watching in the new year is more general and interesting than it used to be. Fifty years ago but a single denomination observed this custom, and for a century it has been the custom that anything out of the common was in progress. The celebration began after New Year's day had dawned and was almost entirely social. It has of late years grown in the religious mind that the observance of New Year is not only proper, but that the watch service is peculiarly appropriate. Many denominations have adopted the custom. Man makes the arbitrary division of time comprised in a year, but it is computed in accordance with the physical laws ordained by the Creator, and its conclusion and the immediate accession of another year give a most excellent opportunity for religious reflections.

A man can look back over a year and recall all the salient features of his career during that time. He can perceive what acts, words or courses of conduct did him good or harm or conferred blessings on others, or the reverse. An intelligent person can generally gauge in this way the success or non-success due to his own acts. As a rule that which has hampered him or retarded his progress has been a violation of some law of God's ordinances. There are cases, perhaps, where success in life has nothing to do with religion, but in a majority of instances those who are unsuccessful owe their failure to a disregard of obvious principles in which religion is more or less a factor.

For those who are imbued with a sincere religion this annual retrospection is a grave hour, and it is likely to be all the more useful and impressive when accompanied by solemn religious exercises teaching where man's true dependence lies. The resolutions made on New Year's day or day preceding form a personal subject for self, but this should not deter serious persons from forming them. Where everybody makes resolutions some are sure to break them. It should always be borne in mind that countless thousands have made resolutions and kept them, without deviation. The proportion of those who adhere to them is so large, perhaps, as the proportion of good to the actually bad. But a man who breaks a resolution is not necessarily bad. He is weak and vacillating, but if he has kept it even a short while he has done himself good by giving tone to his nature. The proper thing for him to do is to keep on making it whenever he breaks it, until he has developed strength enough to keep it permanently.

ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT WORK.

Washington Post. Warship construction in Navy yards and by private firms. Scientific American. Popular delusions die hard, and one of the most pernicious and persistent of these is the belief that warship construction when done by the government is poorly done and costs more than it does at private yards. There was a time, it is true, when the navy ships constructed in government yards, largely by the efforts of the present chief constructor, Rear Admiral Bowles, our navy yards have been entirely emancipated from politics and the organization, plant, discipline and character of work turned out have been brought up to a standard that is fully equal to that of the best private establishments.

The naval constructors believe, and we fully agree with them, that the time has come when it would be to the nation's advantage to have a certain proportion of its ships constructed in government yards. The plant and the working staff at New York and Boston have been brought up to such a state of efficiency that the largest battleships could be constructed with economy and great efficiency. The high cost of "extras," maine and other government built ships cannot be quoted against this statement, since those vessels were built before the yards were reorganized and when the plant was old and inefficient. The construction of ships in government yards would have a two-fold advantage. It would stimulate private builders to exhibit some of that dispatch, which has recently become so conspicuously absent (some of our battleships are a year and a half and our torpedo boats two and a half to three years behind their contract date) and it would be possible to keep the well-trained navy yards continuously at work, instead of having to discharge a large part of them whenever routine repair work is slack.

The practice of building some of the warships in government yards is followed to advantage in the leading European navies. We should adopt it here.

PERSONAL NOTES. Senator Clark is reported to have taken only ninety minutes in spending \$200,000 for paintings in New York the other day.

"Chicago, thy name is mud," exclaims the Tribune. "Chicago is the ideal spot for those who would be entirely happy," pipes the Inter Ocean. Between these extremes safety lies in holding the water.

Maraden J. Perry, the Providence, R. I. banker, owns the finest Shakespearean library in America. It cost him over \$50,000, and its collection was brought together through the aid of the city of Providence.

The Connecticut savings banks increased their deposits the past year by \$5,000,000, bringing the total up to \$133,000,000 in round numbers. But of this sum only \$7,000,000 belongs to depositors who own less than \$100 each to their credit.

The Boston postoffice officials and employees are taking great credit to themselves and finding much satisfaction in the fact that there was not a single piece of mail remaining in the office to be delivered after the carriers had started out on their last burdensome trip on Christmas morning.

John D. Crimmins of New York City has had conferred upon him by the pope, in recognition of distinguished services to the Roman Catholic church, the title of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory, the Great of the Holy See. This is one of the highest titles which can be given to a layman.

Mayor Jerome Dewitt of Birmingham, N. Y., is doing such a thriving business in marrying couples eloping from Pennsylvania that he has established two of his office employees, a man and a young woman, as permanent best man and bridesmaid respectively so as to give future couples all the comforts of a home wedding.

Captain William Campbell, said to be the last of the long line of famous old Mississippi river steamboat masters between New Orleans and Vicksburg, died in New Orleans on Sunday, December 22, in his seventy-second year. He began steamboating at thirteen years of age, and continued in it until two weeks before his death.

A family of five generations celebrated Christmas together in Allouez, Penn. Their ages ranged from eighty-seven years down to ten months. The several representatives of the five generations are: Mrs. Sarah A. McClelland, aged eighty-seven years; her son, William McClelland, aged sixty-three years; his daughter, Mrs. Anna Price, aged forty years; her daughter, Mrs. Carrie Snow, aged nineteen years, and little Esther May Snow, her daughter, aged ten months.

Roosevelt Not an Imitator.

Detroit Free Press. Concede that the president is not always the counter. Admit that