

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

R. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$1.00. Daily Bee and Sunday, One Year, \$1.50.

DELIVERED BY CARRIER. Daily Bee (without Sunday), per copy, 1c. Daily Bee (without Sunday), per week, 7c.

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—City Hall Building, Twelfth and Broadway.

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

REMITTANCES. Remit by draft, express or postal order payable to 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 Omaha Daily Bee, published during the month of September, 1903, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Number, Date, and Total. Rows list circulation figures for various dates in September 1903, totaling 908,230.

Those war clouds have evidently taken a permanent lease on the northwest corner of the oriental horizon. In the matter of attracting public attention and public interest foot ball comes in ahead of politics this year.

Where Omaha can advertise itself to best advantage is by having its streets and thoroughfares put in good condition and kept in repair.

Only 1,500 votes cast in the republican school board primaries. Plainly there must be an issue before the people will take a lively interest in a political contest.

The democratic candidates for judicial positions never make any pledges of political appointments because nobody suspects that they will have any political appointments at their disposal.

The Ohio situation cannot be so precarious from the republican standpoint when Senator Hanna takes a lay off in the midst of the campaign to attend the Civic federation meeting in Chicago.

What a telling demonstration of the efficacy of prayer Chicago would have if Dowle and his Zion host should suddenly make up their minds to locate in New York and relinquish all thought of returning to the World's fair city.

Omaha wants a grain market where the corn and wheat and oats raised in the surrounding states can be stored and exchanged. If it goes about it the right way the local grain market can be established and built up just as was the live stock market.

A surplus of \$7,000 is reported out of receipts of some \$43,000 at the state fair at Lincoln. This is a good showing. When the fair was at Omaha the receipts went much higher, but the management managed to eat them all up in expenses and sometimes more, too.

If Lincoln has given up its opposition to an electric trolley line between the state capital and Omaha there is nothing longer to prevent the capitalists who have been professing to be so eager to launch the project from going ahead. Why don't they get down to business without further delay?

Colonel Bryan declares emphatically in his paper that he never advised the nomination for the presidency of Olney or any other democrat who failed to support the ticket actively in 1896 and 1900. Colonel Bryan, however, has been supporting god democrats for all sorts of other offices and only recently endorsed a bolter as democratic nominee for United States senator from Ohio. The difference is in degree rather than in kind.

The whole question of reform in railroad taxation in Nebraska could have been settled in favor of the people if the supreme court had decided the railroad tax cases a year ago along lines of equity and justice, instead of giving the railroads the decision on technicalities of pleading. With that record before them how can the overburdened taxpayers expect to improve conditions by re-electing Judge Sullivan, who helped the railroads get just what they wanted?

The Nebraska Independent files up at the Bee's statement that the populist vote in this county has divided down to a mere corporal's guard. That is the natural cue for a populist paper whose life depends upon the rescue of the party from complete disintegration. But how does it explain the fact that the 100 votes allotted to Douglas county in the last populist state convention were cast by just two delegates on the ground. Here is a poser that falls to jibe with its claim of double the number of populist voters in Omaha than ever before.

JUDGE BARNES AND JUDGE SULLIVAN. BERTRAM, Neb., Oct. 14, 1903.—To the Editor of The Bee: As I have thought of the remarks of Judge Sullivan at the Columbus democratic convention about Judge Barnes, who has become practically an associate justice there by the approval of the Hon. Judge Sullivan, that he knew him to be an able man, an honorable man and a gentleman, and worthy of being his opponent, disqualifies all of the accusations of the democratic press. Either the judge or the press has misrepresented the man.

If the press charges are true, Judge Sullivan is as favorable toward the railroads as Mr. Barnes, and I would prefer the statements of Sullivan to the democratic press on a question of politics for the reason that he could not speak any way disparagingly of a man with whom he has been personally associated for four years, where so many others, who know Judge Barnes outside of politics, speak of him the same as Mr. Sullivan does.

These are my views of the two candidates who I think are honorable and able men. GEORGE FARNER. This is a fair sample of the letters so far received with reference to the state campaign in Nebraska and a fair illustration of how the two opposing candidates for supreme judge strike the general public. Judge Sullivan has endorsed Judge Barnes as worthy of the confidence and support of his party and no one has said anything so far to discredit Judge Sullivan with those who profess the same party allegiance.

THE BOUNDARY DECISION. Will the decision in the Alaskan boundary case, in which the Canadian government obtains a certain concession from the United States, be satisfactory to our people? It is perhaps absolutely unnecessary to go into all the details of the issue between the two governments. They have been gone over so repeatedly that it seems quite unnecessary to go over them again.

It is wholly useless to discuss the question in view of the decision of the court favorable to the American contention. Nothing more could be required to prove that the attitude of our government has always been absolutely correct and proper. Whatever may have taken place in the past to militate against our fair and honorable play in respect to this controversy, the admission must be that our government has at all times and under all circumstances shown a most commendable desire to settle these matters by way of honorable arbitration.

While this present commission is not a board of arbitration, but simply a body clothed with authority to determine certain controverted points in connection with the claims of Canada and the United States in regard to boundary rights in a designated territory, it is still a body whose judgment will have a very great bearing upon the ultimate settlement of the issue. The importance of this issue is fully recognized by both countries and now that it is practically adjusted it is a reasonable expectation that other questions between the two countries will be amicably settled within the near future.

It is therefore reasonably to be hoped that the decision of the Alaskan boundary commission will be immediately followed by action, possibly in the reconvening of the high joint commission, that will result in a complete and permanent settlement of all issues between the United States and the Dominion.

DOING THEIR DUTY. Every good citizen, whether his politics, must regret the fact that there has been wrongdoing in some of the departments of the government. It should be, and we are inclined to believe it is, the sentiment of all good citizens that every person in the service of the government should under all circumstances observe absolute integrity in all relations and be unqualifiedly honest in their duty to the public, whose servants they are.

We believe that the very great majority in the public service do this and that those who do not constitute a very small fraction. As we have said heretofore, it is not to be doubted that the greater number of our public servants, in whatever capacity employed, are absolutely honest and upright in the discharge of their duties. We believe that the public service of the United States is as a whole administered as honestly as the public service of any country in the world. We think that facts will show this beyond controversy.

What we desire to emphasize is that the men in the various departments of the administration are doing their full duty in connection with whatever faults and abuses may exist in their respective departments and are manifesting a most earnest purpose to correct and prevent any and all improper actions or unlawful conduct. No reasonable man will be surprised at the fact that in a public service embracing hundreds of thou-

sands of persons there should be a few dishonest and untrustworthy. It is simply inevitable. But the administration is using every practicable effort to rid the public service of unreliable persons and in this the president and the various heads of the departments are entitled to the confidence of the country.

THAT HUNGRY WOLF.

"Children, go to bed, or the wolf will eat you," is the usual way by which the nurse puts the juveniles to sleep. "Slip under our bed quilt or the machine will eat you up," is the admonition of the combine of which Secretary Burgess and Superintendent Pearce are the wet nurses. The credulous juveniles who have been buncoed so many times by the cry of "wolf" will doubtless imagine that they have had a narrow escape from being eaten up, but it strikes us that the last performance ought to be an eye opener to the lambs of both sexes that have been repeatedly frightened out of their wits by the false alarm.

For months the combine that extended the term of Politician Pearce for three years and raised the salary of Politician Burgess, who had never earned more than \$80 a month in his life, to \$2,100 a year was plotting and scheming to re-elect a few friendly Indians and inject several friendly tenderfeet into the board upon whom they could rely implicitly in milking the taxpayers to their hearts' content.

Forty-eight hours before the republican school board primary the alarm of "Get under cover, or the wolf will eat you," was sounded for the benefit of the unsuspecting political infants by the juvenile yellow, whose proprietor transplanted a near relative from one of the graded schools of Kansas City, paying \$40 a month salary, to a position in the Omaha High school at \$80 a month. "The friends of the public schools must be on guard," cried the sensational bunco steerer. "The machine is lubricating its running gear and will swoop down upon the school board primaries with a slate. The only way to beat the machine is to vote the following five names: Theodore H. Johnson, Howard L. Kreider, James W. Maynard, John H. Vance and Ellisworth A. Willis." The day after the primary the senior morning yellow announced in big headlines "The machine slipped some cogs. The machine was given somewhat of a jolt at the republican primaries held for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Board of Education. But one of the candidates endorsed by the machine won out—John L. McCague."

Now, everybody familiar with Omaha politics knows that John L. McCague has never been directly or indirectly identified with the dreadful machine. Everybody who attended the school board primaries knows that the horrible machine put no ticket in the field and that the only sample ballots in circulation were printed on the colored slips of paper peddled by the school janitors, schoolma'ams and the candidates put up by Burgess and Pearce. The so-called machine had not even thought of making a contest. There has not been for years any attempt at political manipulation of members or employees of the school board, except by the combine on the inside, which wants to perpetuate itself in power for the benefit of relatives who are foisted upon the public schools regardless of merit or qualifications.

And yet there are hundreds, if not thousands, of people in Omaha who allow themselves to be treated as children and frightened by these political nurses into slipping under cover by the mere threat that a hungry wolf has his nozzle at the bedroom door ready to eat them.

Booker T. Washington explains the general migration of negroes from country to city, a migration that according to census statistics is more marked proportionately with them than with the whites, by two reasons, first, the better schooling facilities for negro children, and second, the better police protection. But those two factors are just as sharply drawn between whites in city and country as between negroes in and out of the cities and their influence should work uniformly without respect to color or race. These explanations may hold partly good in the south, where the color discrimination is unchecked, but they do not hold good in the north, where colored children attend the same schools as the white children and police protection is not needed. The suggestion that a more potent reason is the better wages obtainable in the cities may be pertinent, as also the greater variety of diversion, because the negro must have recreation and amusement. At all events, Mr. Washington's explanation does not cover the whole ground.

A convention of representative cattlemen from eighteen states is to be held at Denver during the present week to discuss the independent packing house project as a competitor to the Packing House trust. The plan of organization contemplates the raising of more than ten millions of capital by stock subscription at the rate of \$1 for every head of cattle owned by the ranchman. If all cattle owners could be enlisted Texas alone would contribute \$9,000,000 to the fund and Kansas and Nebraska would drop in several millions more. The promoters of this scheme evidently believe that independent packing plants will increase the value of each head of cattle at least \$2, but we apprehend that all would depend upon the management of the independent packing houses and their ability to secure stock yard facilities and transportation on the same terms as are now enjoyed by the packers' combine.

The way to take the public schools out of politics is to enact a law forbidding candidates for the school board from having their names filed under any party designation and divorce all school board elections from political elections. When that is done we may have nonpartisan school boards.

The awful condition of the streets of Chicago which have not been recently repaved is accounted for by President Lynch of the Board of Public Improvements, who says that the early cedar pavements rotted out from the bottom in a few years and that the blocks were torn out of place and stolen by people of various neighborhoods, who used the lumber supply for firewood. The fact is that the cedar block pavements were laid under a rascally system of "graft"—Chicago Chronicle. "Misery loves company." Omaha will have reason to congratulate itself that its experience with bad pavements is only a repetition of what Chicago has undergone and is still undergoing. Both cities have been taught a costly lesson that should not be forgotten at least for one or two generations.

Three weeks ago President Johnson assured the patrons of the public schools that the school board was out of politics. But with the school house janitors and other school board employees under orders to hustle at the republican primaries it would indicate that the school board is still in politics up to its neck.

Hot Spots on the Sun. Detroit Free Press. If steel consumption drops much lower during the Roosevelt administration, it will require a force to keep the New York Sun from succeeding from the union.

Enslavement Fits the Crime. Washington Post. An Ohio negro has been sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary for stealing \$6 cents. Serves him right for stealing that much real money instead of swiping a few millions' worth of steel stock.

And the Yell Tumbled. Philadelphia Inquirer. The latest story about Admiral Cotton is that, when he arrived at Beirut and the wall sent to ask his intentions, he replied that he had no intentions, no policy and "no ink cartridges." The ink clause struck the wall as peculiarly significant and order was restored at once.

Supply of Suckers Exhausted. Pittsburg Dispatch. Wall street financiers depended on the rule that suckers are being constantly brought into the world. But they slipped up by forgetting that the supply of one generation may be exhausted before the next crop gets into the market.

A Dig for the Digging. Springfield Republican. It has not yet been learned who fired the shot that did not hit Magellan of Beyroot, nor does anyone now care to know. Our navy has got in its work, however. Minister Lehmann, with two war ships at his back, has forced the Sultan to grant permission to a certain Dr. Banks to excavate ruins in Mesopotamia. This is another great diplomatic triumph, and, besides, it proves the inestimable value of a navy when dealing with the Turk.

Time and Money Saved by Their Use in Indianapolis. Quickness, accuracy and almost instantaneous returns were impressive results of the use of voting machines in the municipal election at Indianapolis last Tuesday. Ten machines were used in as many ward districts, but so distributed as to test their operation among different classes of the voting population. One vote was cast by machines performed their work as related by the Indianapolis Journal: "When the polls closed Tuesday evening," says the Journal, "the manager of the press bureau had a messenger stationed at the third precinct of the Thirteenth ward and waiting for the result of the vote. The messenger rode up to the bureau on Illinois street with the result of the vote from this particular precinct. "In the sixth precinct of the Twelfth ward sixty votes were cast in the first fifty-two minutes after the polls opened. One vote was cast by ballot, or write vote in eight seconds. Several voters cast their ballots in three seconds each. "In the eighth precinct of the Thirteenth ward eighty votes were cast in one hour. Fred Stoits, 22 years old, voted in ten seconds. "In another precinct sixty-eight votes were cast in forty minutes. In this precinct the average time consumed by each voter while enough were waiting to keep the machine busy was twenty seconds. "In the eleventh precinct of the Sixth ward the average time of each voter was one to one and a half minutes. "In the thirteenth precinct of the Third ward the average time was five to thirty seconds. "In the seventh precinct of the First ward thirty-two votes were cast. In the first hour sixty-nine were cast. "In the twelfth precinct of the Thirteenth ward thirty-two votes were cast in the first half hour and 104 in the first hour. "The longest time consumed in furnishing returns from voting machines after the close of the polls was forty-five minutes and thirty seconds. This was the time consumed in the Third, Tenth and Twelfth wards. "In the eighth precinct of the Thirteenth ward the result of the vote was known in twenty seconds after the polls closed at 8 p. m. "The election officers appeared to think the machines were a success and were well satisfied with them. One special feature noted by the officers was that the machines tended to "straight" voting instead of scratched tickets. It was also noted that in many instances where special instructions were not given the voter forgot the school commission. Sometimes it was observed, a voter would manipulate the machine for a straight rather than try to vote a scratched ticket, fearing he would become confused and vote wrong. Where voters could not read they were required to make affidavit to the fact, and the clerks would then help them out. "Editorially, the Journal says: "There have been numerous elections, city, county and township, in Indiana since the adoption of the Australian law, in which there have been enough mutilated ballots to have changed the result, had they been counted, and in all of these cases it has been a question if the will of the majority has not been defeated through ignorance or carelessness. With the machine there can be no ballot vitiated by distinguishing marks, and it is mechanically impossible for the voter to vote for two candidates for the same office. The worst he can do is to neglect to vote for some candidate he had intended to vote for. "Another advantage lies in a considerable saving of expense. Not only are the managers of officers required to conduct a precinct polling place be reduced, but they will draw pay for but one day, instead of for two or three days, as under the old system. The expenses of an election are reduced more than half, and in most cases as much as for the same number of voters for themselves in a very few elections, and afterwards result in a great saving to the people, for they should last many decades with proper care."

JUDGE JOHN B. BARNES. Madison Chronicle: Judge Barnes has made an ideal supreme commissioner, and has been voted for that position twice by Judge Sullivan. Such being the case he is in every way qualified to occupy with credit to himself and the party the office of chief justice of the supreme court, and you should see to it that your ballot reads for him on election day, November 2.

Leigh World: Everything seems to be coming right for Judge John B. Barnes, the republican candidate for supreme judge. The democratic press is calling him a corporation tool and a rogue, and yet he is gaining strength in the popularity of the people every day. We would not be surprised if that democratic mud slinging would help him to gather a few more votes.

Wayne Republican: The Hon. J. B. Barnes of Norfolk, the republican nominee for supreme judge, has formed a staunch friendship with the old times of the state, who, for the first time, perhaps, have met him, although their acquaintance has been forming for thirty years. Select from those who have lived in the state any great length of time as the prominent jurists and judges, sift their minds through your memory and select those whose every impulse was for the welfare of the state and the vicinity of his home, for the welfare of every man and the correct training and education of his own family. Judge Barnes is still among the upstarts. By these tests of his public trust, we have a candidate who is entitled to every vote of loyal citizens regardless of party. It takes more than sneers of fusionists that he is a railroad man to convince those who know him well that he is not a man under the influence of his Creator with capabilities to tend all roads, but a man who has an oath sworn to him as fairly as any other litigant. We would disdain to vote for a man so biased that he could not accord impartial judgment to all, even if one of the litigants were the most oppressive to mankind.

Pender Republic: The talk of certain of the fusion papers that Judge Barnes was disgraced by serving upon the public trusts, we have a candidate who is entitled to every vote of loyal citizens regardless of party. It takes more than sneers of fusionists that he is a railroad man to convince those who know him well that he is not a man under the influence of his Creator with capabilities to tend all roads, but a man who has an oath sworn to him as fairly as any other litigant. We would disdain to vote for a man so biased that he could not accord impartial judgment to all, even if one of the litigants were the most oppressive to mankind.

There are now about sixty first-class hotels in New York. The addition of the fifteen new ones will increase the number to seventy-five. If these seventy-five hotels were piled on top of one another they would make a structure 700 stories high—taller than the Tower of Babel. Or, to look at it in another way, if they could be conglomerated into one huge composite hotel it would be twenty-seven stories high and occupy a ground space of seventeen acres, more than four city blocks, including the intersecting streets. This great building would cost \$73,000,000, have 2,000 bedrooms and accommodate 50,000 guests daily.

James Henry Smith, formerly of this city, but now of New York and known among his friends as "Bent Smith," is planning to have a novel house part when his new Fifth avenue mansion is completed next winter. Every man who turned a spadeful of earth, laid a brick, drove a nail or dashed a brush on the house is to have an invitation. Even the bricklayers' clerks, who will be invited to the workmen's come and bring their wives. It will not be an exclusive affair at all. Mr. Smith's other friends will have invitations and there will be quite a coming together of all kinds of society. Mr. Smith has no notion of patronizing the workmen by giving this party. He thinks the men who build houses have some equity in the comfort to be derived from them.

For the use of the underground rapid transit railroad 500 more cars have arrived in New York. They are more roomy and lighter than those in use on the elevated roads, and different from them in other respects. The woodwork of the interior is of a lighter shade. The windows are much larger; the entire upper sides of the cars, in fact, are of glass, except the narrow framework. They are no mirrors. The cars are forty-two feet long, about two feet longer than those in the elevated. The doors are much larger than any seen now on city railroads. The seating capacity

GOBBLING UP TIMBER LANDS. Valuable Portions of the Public Domain Going to Speculators.—Chicago Record-Herald. The federal timber lands law provides for the sale to pioneers of government forest lands in quarter sections at \$2.50 an acre. In the twenty-five years since the law has been on the statute books the total sales of timber lands have amounted to less than 7,000,000 acres. In the fiscal year 1903 alone the sales were 1,765,618 acres, or over a quarter of the total twenty-five years' sales.

These figures tell a startling story of the rapidity with which some of the most valuable portions of the public domain are being "gobbled up," and they furnish at the same time a most eloquent argument for immediate amendment of the timber land law. If the lands were passed into the hands of actual settlers, or if the government were being paid a reasonable price for them, all would be well, but such is not the case. The lands are going to speculators for a song. Commissioner Richards of the general land office has just issued his annual report to discuss the situation and to lament his helplessness under the existing laws. "There is no doubt," he is quoted as saying, "that the law is being taken advantage of by speculators, who are getting rich at the expense of the government and of the men for whose benefit the law was primarily passed." He describes how a carload of people will leave Michigan for Oregon. Shortly thereafter the land office receives claims for quarter sections in number exactly corresponding to the number of passengers of the car. Each claim is accompanied by a \$400 check. Investigation shows that none of the claimants was ever known in his home town to have \$400 at any one time in his life. Nevertheless the patents must be issued for the law only requires that the claimant must have seen the land and possess the price. Before long all the claims are transferred to some one syndicate or corporation. One remedy that has been suggested is to apply to the timber claimant the features of the homestead law, which make a residence requirement. But the commutation clause of the homestead law is itself proving too liberal, and the whole subject of the land laws is in great need of investigation and practical reform.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK. Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. Faith curists in New York are much perturbed over the decision of the state court of appeals, which penalizes failure to call regular medical practitioners in all cases of illness of minors. Believers in the power of prayer over disease are bitterly denouncing the decision and say they will raise a fund to get the best possible counsel to carry the case to the federal supreme court.

Nearly three years ago one J. Luther Pierson, a resident of White Plains, was fined \$500, with the alternative of 90 days in jail, for criminal neglect. He had refused to furnish medical attendance in the case of his infant child, who was gravely ill of pneumonia. Being a Christian Scientist, or Faith Curer, he did not believe in doctors. He trusted entirely to the efficacy of prayer. The child died. Pierson was prosecuted under that section of the penal code which says that a charge of criminal neglect may be sustained against any person "who omits without lawful excuse to perform a duty by law imposed upon him, to furnish food, clothing, shelter or medical attendance to a minor." The jury returned a verdict of guilty. This verdict was reversed by the appellate division, which stretched the term "medical attendance" to cover more than the framers of the statute intended that it should. In other words, the appellate division held as guiltless those parents who permit sick children to battle against disease unaided by the resources of medical science. The court of appeals has now in turn reversed the appellate division and Pierson must either pay his fine or go to jail.

There was to be a wedding rehearsal at the home of Sarah Geisler in Jersey City Tuesday night, and the young woman was radiantly happy in anticipation of her marriage to Walter Odell next Wednesday. She worked hard all the morning putting the finishing touches to her wedding gown. When she finished she exclaimed with joy: "Oh, mamma, won't Walter feel proud of me for this?" and she held the gown out at arm's length. But Mrs. Geisler made no reply. She smiled feebly and turned away. Her heart was breaking with grief, for she had been told half an hour before that Odell was dead. She feared the shock would kill her daughter. The sight of the wedding gown just finished only intensified her grief and strove in vain to hide her tears. The young woman embraced her mother tenderly as she tried to make her feel happy. "You shouldn't cry, mother. You know we'll never leave you after we're married. We'll be here every day," and she tried to laugh the tears away. Mrs. Geisler strove to keep them back, but the girl could see that there was something wrong. She begged her mother to tell her what it was. Mrs. Geisler hinted that Walter might not come that evening. "Why do you say that?" asked the girl, who had already received word. She gently stroked her daughter's hair as she let out the fatal secret, and when the girl was told the worst both mother and daughter were overcome. Walter Odell had committed suicide at his new home in Union avenue, Bronx. He was found dead in his morning gown with a gas tube in his mouth. The shock was too great for the young woman to bear. For three years she had been the promised bride of Odell. She would not believe that he was dead. She decided to find out for herself. Mrs. Geisler and her son accompanied the girl to the home of her dead fiancé. When she saw the coffin the young woman collapsed and it was feared her heart might give way.

There are now about sixty first-class hotels in New York. The addition of the fifteen new ones will increase the number to seventy-five. If these seventy-five hotels were piled on top of one another they would make a structure 700 stories high—taller than the Tower of Babel. Or, to look at it in another way, if they could be conglomerated into one huge composite hotel it would be twenty-seven stories high and occupy a ground space of seventeen acres, more than four city blocks, including the intersecting streets. This great building would cost \$73,000,000, have 2,000 bedrooms and accommodate 50,000 guests daily.

James Henry Smith, formerly of this city, but now of New York and known among his friends as "Bent Smith," is planning to have a novel house part when his new Fifth avenue mansion is completed next winter. Every man who turned a spadeful of earth, laid a brick, drove a nail or dashed a brush on the house is to have an invitation. Even the bricklayers' clerks, who will be invited to the workmen's come and bring their wives. It will not be an exclusive affair at all. Mr. Smith's other friends will have invitations and there will be quite a coming together of all kinds of society. Mr. Smith has no notion of patronizing the workmen by giving this party. He thinks the men who build houses have some equity in the comfort to be derived from them.

GOBBLING UP TIMBER LANDS. Valuable Portions of the Public Domain Going to Speculators.—Chicago Record-Herald. The federal timber lands law provides for the sale to pioneers of government forest lands in quarter sections at \$2.50 an acre. In the twenty-five years since the law has been on the statute books the total sales of timber lands have amounted to less than 7,000,000 acres. In the fiscal year 1903 alone the sales were 1,765,618 acres, or over a quarter of the total twenty-five years' sales.

These figures tell a startling story of the rapidity with which some of the most valuable portions of the public domain are being "gobbled up," and they furnish at the same time a most eloquent argument for immediate amendment of the timber land law. If the lands were passed into the hands of actual settlers, or if the government were being paid a reasonable price for them, all would be well, but such is not the case. The lands are going to speculators for a song. Commissioner Richards of the general land office has just issued his annual report to discuss the situation and to lament his helplessness under the existing laws. "There is no doubt," he is quoted as saying, "that the law is being taken advantage of by speculators, who are getting rich at the expense of the government and of the men for whose benefit the law was primarily passed." He describes how a carload of people will leave Michigan for Oregon. Shortly thereafter the land office receives claims for quarter sections in number exactly corresponding to the number of passengers of the car. Each claim is accompanied by a \$400 check. Investigation shows that none of the claimants was ever known in his home town to have \$400 at any one time in his life. Nevertheless the patents must be issued for the law only requires that the claimant must have seen the land and possess the price. Before long all the claims are transferred to some one syndicate or corporation. One remedy that has been suggested is to apply to the timber claimant the features of the homestead law, which make a residence requirement. But the commutation clause of the homestead law is itself proving too liberal, and the whole subject of the land laws is in great need of investigation and practical reform.

GOBBLING UP TIMBER LANDS. Valuable Portions of the Public Domain Going to Speculators.—Chicago Record-Herald. The federal timber lands law provides for the sale to pioneers of government forest lands in quarter sections at \$2.50 an acre. In the twenty-five years since the law has been on the statute books the total sales of timber lands have amounted to less than 7,000,000 acres. In the fiscal year 1903 alone the sales were 1,765,618 acres, or over a quarter of the total twenty-five years' sales.

These figures tell a startling story of the rapidity with which some of the most valuable portions of the public domain are being "gobbled up," and they furnish at the same time a most eloquent argument for immediate amendment of the timber land law. If the lands were passed into the hands of actual settlers, or if the government were being paid a reasonable price for them, all would be well, but such is not the case. The lands are going to speculators for a song. Commissioner Richards of the general land office has just issued his annual report to discuss the situation and to lament his helplessness under the existing laws. "There is no doubt," he is quoted as saying, "that the law is being taken advantage of by speculators, who are getting rich at the expense of the government and of the men for whose benefit the law was primarily passed." He describes how a carload of people will leave Michigan for Oregon. Shortly thereafter the land office receives claims for quarter sections in number exactly corresponding to the number of passengers of the car. Each claim is accompanied by a \$400 check. Investigation shows that none of the claimants was ever known in his home town to have \$400 at any one time in his life. Nevertheless the patents must be issued for the law only requires that the claimant must have seen the land and possess the price. Before long all the claims are transferred to some one syndicate or corporation. One remedy that has been suggested is to apply to the timber claimant the features of the homestead law, which make a residence requirement. But the commutation clause of the homestead law is itself proving too liberal, and the whole subject of the land laws is in great need of investigation and practical reform.

in fifty-two passengers to the car, against forty-eight in the "L" cars. The advantage of the subway cars is in their greater width, depth and the comfortable arrangement of the seats.

Aluminum cooking utensils are being pushed by many of the big shops in New York. They are brought out in shapes as attractive as all the finest silver, copper and gold lined cooking vessels used in wealthy households. The stew pans, terrapin dishes, coffee urns and teakettles of aluminum have now such beauty of contour and finish that they seem almost more appropriate to the dining room table than to the kitchen. And particularly is this true of the individual enamel pans and holders for delicacies that require to be served in the dish in which they are cooked if their excellence is to be preserved. Half the battle in winter-time cookery is to have things served hot. The new aluminum conveniences provide this advantage for housekeepers who cannot afford the expensive silver utensils.

A new thing in the way of apartment house leases has made its appearance. Its author is a patriot and a Christian gentleman who has brought to the kitchen the power of the protection of his tenants. A lady connected with the operative stage desired a suite of apartments. He accepted her as a tenant, but inserted a clause in the lease to the effect that as soon as one of the other tenants recorded a complaint of her vocal grumblings, she was to take up her music roll and depart.

Uncle Sam's Strong Box. New York Tribune. Uncle Sam's cash balance in the treasury at the end of September touched the high water mark in that repository, being \$28,370,000, largely loaned out to banks, thus continuing its activity, but good on call whenever wanted. So long as Dame Columbia is able to keep the aforesaid Uncle out of Wall street his financial condition promises to continue prosperous, with no need to borrow money for housekeeping, unless a new democratic administration were to come in and make necessary the expeditious of the last one.

POINTED PLEASANTRIES. "There is no such thing as luck," said the sturdy, self-reliant man in the treasury at the end of September touched the high water mark in that repository, being \$28,370,000, largely loaned out to banks, thus continuing its activity, but good on call whenever wanted. So long as Dame Columbia is able to keep the aforesaid Uncle out of Wall street his financial condition promises to continue prosperous, with no need to borrow money for housekeeping, unless a new democratic administration were to come in and make necessary the expeditious of the last one.

Freddy—I got an insulting note from Ruggles this morning. He says I'm a dished fool. Cholly—Never mind Ruggles. He's one of those ducedly frank fellows, don't you know.—Philadelphia Press. "I could die waiting," remarked the awkward young man just because he thought it best to keep the aforesaid Uncle out of Wall street his financial condition promises to continue prosperous, with no need to borrow money for housekeeping, unless a new democratic administration were to come in and make necessary the expeditious of the last one.

Friend—How did you get your first case? Doctor—Why, I think the man didn't know it.—New York Times. "In the musician's eye there was a gleam of joy. "If it possible," asked one of the bystanders, "you can take any pleasure in hearing me?" "No, but I can take any pleasure in hearing you," answered through his set teeth. "She is murdering it!"—Chicago Tribune.

Bride (disconsolately)—Half my wedding presents are cheap plated things. Mother—Never mind, my dear; no one will suspect it. I have hired two detectives to make themselves conspicuous watching them.—New York Weekly. "What? You married?" exclaimed the girl who had just returned from a six months' sojourn at the summer resort. "Why, yes, I did. I think you would never be any man's slave." "True," replied the newly made bride, "but what a ghastly fellow with my getting married!"—Chicago News.

THE BURIAL OF FREE SILVER. W. D. Nesbit in Chicago Tribune. "I think that free silver will not be considered at the national democratic convention in 1904."—Reported utterances of W. J. Bryan. Not a speech was heard, not a funeral word, as the course to the ramparts were hurried. Not even a cheer the grim stillness stirred. "Not a word did the mourners say. "We buried it darkly—no one knows when—And nobody looked at the casket. "But there is a hint it was hauled again into the familiar war basket. "No useless coffin inclosed its breast. "Nor bier did the mourners file. "But they laid it away to its long, long rest On the platform of Nineteen-hix.

Few and short were the prayers we said, And we spoke not a word of sorrow, But we gazed and gazed on the face of the dead. And bitterly thought of the morrow. We thought of the fellows who'd fix the plank. On which we should do our campaigning—And the golden cross, with a muttering clank. Lent emphasis to our complaining. Lightly they'll talk of the spirit that's gone. And brass down the thorns on our forehead—Still, you were great, good old Sixteen-to Sixty. Those who dispute this are horrid. Now it's at rest, in the peace of the tomb—Safe from all quibbling and jibing; We may but say, through the rifts in the sky, That "now is the time for subscribing." Slowly and sadly we laid it down. And we wept as we gazed upon that form And thought of the beautiful theory grown That had pierced the Chicago platform.

Waltham Watches. The observed of all observers. "The Perfected American Watch," an illustrated book of interesting information about watches, will be sent free upon request. American Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Mass. 1521 FARNAM. The great variety of styles in Decatur shoes enables the sportsman to satisfy his longing for the real thing—as well as the devotee of the ball room. Direct from the maker to wearer. \$3.50 to \$5.00. DECATUR Fresh Wilcox Springs