THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
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1	29,200	17	26,400
2	30,320	18	28,790
3	27,140	19	28,850
4	30,110	20	29,400
5	29,700	21	28,730
6	29,510	22	28,770
7	29,740	23	29,050
8	29,430	24	26,225
9	29,420	25	28,270
10	26,705	26	29,080
11	28,970	27	29,450
12	28,920	28	29,170
13	29,450	29	28,790
14	28,900	30	29,010
15	30,310	31	26,205
16	29,170		

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Net average sales..... 28,493

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 3d day of February, A. D. 1904.
M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal.) Notary Public.

It was not an earthquake in the Indian Territory. Just the sound of a United States marshal losing his grip on his job.

If there are any more rural delivery routes to be established in Nebraska the county supervisors will have to lay out some new roads.

To judge from the emotional press one would think that King Edward intends to make of Mrs. Maybrick "a woman with the iron mask."

Republican congressmen have a right to be proud of the record of the party, but they should remember that many a man has stumbled while looking backward.

If the Iowa democratic insurgents want to see the big show at St. Louis they will be good, as Charley Walsh will have the tickets to distribute in that state.

With both factions pledged to the nomination of President Roosevelt it is hard to see any reason for factions among Georgia republicans. Internal fights never made votes.

The Kansas farmer who bought a gold brick can laugh at Governor Odell of New York, who bought Shipbuilding stock. The farmer at least secured weight for his coin.

The coal dealers want the railroads to rebate for short weight in carload shipments, and the consumers would like the coal dealers to make up for short weight in the coal bin.

The first real evidence that China believes that war will come between Japan and Russia comes with the statement that the empress dowager is ready to fly with the court from Peking.

Having succeeded in breaking the Maryland deadlock Senator Gorman may proceed to the more hopeless task of conciliating all of the conflicting interests of his democratic confreres in the senate.

Liberal unionists of England who pledge themselves to support Balfour under all circumstances may prove to be better "fair traders" than some of the more outspoken advocates of fiscal reform.

The deadlock in the Iowa delegation over the selection of a successor to Judge Shiras can readily be broken by the president, and it is to be hoped that he will exercise his prerogative at no distant day.

The chief trouble with the boom for Cockrell as democratic candidate for the presidency is that his record did not begin before the civil war. The echoes of the rebel yell still resound in the hills of the Ozarks.

King Peter finds it harder to manage the Servian people than his illustrious ancestor did to manage the hogs. In the formation of a new cabinet he has an opportunity to satisfy the powers of Europe and lose his head by the act.

The growls of the Russian bear and the British lion over the Chinese customs were so subdued as to be indistinguishable until the under secretary of foreign affairs said in the British Parliament that the lion was provoked. Its roar might have been louder had the bear not been so ferocious.

The decision of the supreme court regarding the constitutionality of the South Omaha Fire and Police commission law is anxiously looked for by all concerned. If the law is declared valid the commission will continue to do business at the old stand; if it is knocked out there will be a rush of applicants to the mayor's office.

AGAINST THE "OPEN DOOR."

An earnest supporter of the Chamberlain policy is the prime minister of New Zealand. That official has no use for free trade and the open door and cannot see why any Englishman should support such a policy. He points out that under it imports of American goods into New Zealand have increased by over $5,000,000 in five years and observes that a good many of the leading lines should have been taken from the motherland. By way of promoting the interests of the British manufacturers, New Zealand has adopted a preferential tariff ranging from 20 to 40 per cent, which the premier thinks "ought to give the British manufacturers a good shot."

Possibly it will do so, but such preference shown in the Canadian tariff has not proved of very material benefit to manufacturers of England. In spite of it American trade with the Dominion has been steadily growing. Perhaps the experience of New Zealand will be different, because of the great difference in conditions, geographically and otherwise, yet much will depend upon the energy and enterprise of the British manufacturer in competition with those of this country. The advantage which the former will enjoy under a preferential tariff is certainly very considerable, but when it is considered that the products of American mills and factories are sold right in the English market in competition with domestic products, it is not altogether improbable that our manufacturers will be able to retain a good part of their trade with New Zealand.

If Mr. Chamberlain had in all the colonies of Great Britain as earnest and zealous a champion of his reform policy as the New Zealand premier his chances of success would be exceedingly good, but as yet colonial interest in his scheme is not so general or strong as to be greatly encouraging to him.

DECLINING INCORPORATIONS.

The New York Journal of Commerce, which keeps a record of the incorporation of companies with $1,000,000 stock each or more, states that the aggregate capital of such companies incorporated during January is only a little over $59,000,000, about $23,000,000 less than during December last. Commenting upon this that paper remarks that the returns are both reassuring and disappointing—"reassuring in that they indicate clearly that a halt has been called upon the promotion of undesirable and overcapitalized schemes; disappointing in that the same influences which have checked wild-cat financiering have also interfered with the raising of money for legitimate business ventures." But it thinks that gradually the task of floating companies intended to pursue conservative and desirable business undertakings will be made easier and then increasing totals of capitalization will be a source of satisfaction. "At the same time," it adds, "there is reason to hope that the experience of the past year in the stock market will have a lasting effect in hampering the organization of unsound enterprises."

The decline in incorporations, insofar as it is significant of greater care and conservatism on the part of capital, is to be regarded as a wholesome condition. No enterprise of a strictly legitimate character, for which it can be shown that there is a reasonable prospect for making a fair return on the investment, will fail to secure needed capital, but evidently the time has gone by when any sort of enterprise can obtain all kinds of money and that fact is certainly reassuring. The decline in incorporations seems to us to be a sign of returning soundness in the business affairs of the country which should be welcomed.

ADMINISTRATION NOT RESPONSIBLE.

The attempt of democratic newspapers to fix responsibility on the administration for Senator Foraker's bill to amend the Sherman anti-trust law will not succeed. We have already noted the explicit statement of the Ohio senator that he had not consulted the president or any member of the administration in regard to his proposed amendment. This is corroborated by the statement of Attorney General Knox that the measure was never discussed by himself and President Roosevelt and was introduced without the administration's knowledge or approval.

Moreover, the attorney general is not favorable to the proposed amendment. In an interview he pointed out several vital objections to it, among other things saying: "The proposed amendment overlooks the fact that the public welfare is involved in any restraint that public corporations may impose upon themselves and, therefore, the amendment does not propose to introduce the rule of the common law, but its enactment would be a legislative grant of power to restrain commerce, prohibited by the common law, as all restraints which affect the public welfare injuriously are void of common law." It is in the highest degree improbable that the president would take a position respecting a matter of this nature without having consulted the legal adviser of the administration and the fact of the attorney general not being favorable to the proposed amendment establishes beyond question that it has not received the approval of the president. We think that no fair-minded man can come to any other conclusion. Senator Foraker did not represent the administration in introducing his bill.

There is not the least reason to believe that any change has taken place in the attitude of the president and the attorney general on this subject. It is not to be doubted that both want to enforce the present law and have confidence in its adequacy. President Roosevelt has certainly shown an earnest desire for the enforcement of the anti-trust law and there has been nothing to warrant a doubt respecting the position of Attorney General Knox. That very able lawyer has given a clearer exposition of the Sherman act than any of his predecessors and unlike the attorneys general under the Cleveland administration he has found it to provide effective means for dealing with the combinations engaged in interstate and foreign commerce.

It is reported to be the prevailing opinion at Washington that there will be no action on the Foraker bill at the present session. It may even not be reported from the committee and if it should be it will be materially amended. So far as now appears few republicans in the senate are favorable to the proposed legislation and it is safe to say that it will not receive popular endorsement.

A WATER-LOGGED STATESMAN.

When the compulsory water works purchase bill was before the legislature The Bee pointed out many of its glaring defects, but the father of the bill turned a deaf ear to every suggestion for its amendment and rushed it through at railroad speed. Now he tells the Real Estate exchange that his high-sounding promises and big expectations have proved delusive. The water-logged statesman complains that the Water board has been slow in performing its duty and charges the council with seeking to do for the water company by indirection what it could not do by direction. All that might easily have been foreseen. The bill was wrong in its inception and crude in its makeup. It violated the bedrock principle of self-government and home rule. No community in this country has ever yet been compelled by a state legislature to buy or sell a public utility plant, and nobody has ever yet presented a rational excuse for such action by the Nebraska legislature.

The city of Omaha had a contract with the water works company by which it was privileged to acquire its plant by purchase in 1903 without paying for the franchise. The city also was privileged to acquire the plant by condemnation proceedings with the right to reject the appraisement if too high or accept it if satisfactory. Last, but not least, the city also had the right to establish a water works system of its own in case the terms upon which it could buy out the water works company were regarded as unreasonable.

But ambitious politicians who hoped to make political capital out of the water works agitation would not let well enough alone. They were bound to distinguish themselves even if they extinguished the city and submerged it under a mountain of debt, and the shrewd managers of the water works company did not interpose an objection. They knew, as The Bee had pointed out, that the bill was as full of holes as a skimmer and could be successfully attacked in the courts if the deal which it provided for seemed unsatisfactory to the water company. On the other hand, if the deal was a good thing for the water company they were willing to be ousted from possession.

The most flagrant violation of the home-rule principle and most unheard of piece of legislation was the creation of the water works board, appointed by the governor, but not removable by the governor or any judicial tribunal, even if it should see fit to plunge the city into the most reckless and extravagant expenditures.

Another monstrosity was the mutilation of the charter so as to prevent the city from levying water rent taxes. That piece of blind-bat legislation has resulted in a judgment for $100,000 against the city, on which 7 per cent interest is being paid, when by rights the city should have collected the water rent charges from the taxpayers, or, if it was bound to stave off payment, should have issued $100,000 of 4 or 4½ per cent bonds.

All this shows that it is easy to get the city into a tangle, but it is another thing to pull it out. Scolding the Water board and city council and damning the water works monopoly affords no relief. The Water board is not subject to discipline by anybody. The city council is as obstinate and unmindful of advice as the father of the water bill was when admonished to go slowly. The water works company is supremely indifferent about the scolding so long as it has the whip hand and is in position to drive ahead or slow up.

If he is correctly reported, the nautical senator from Douglas declared before the Real Estate exchange that the purchase of the water works would mean "a saving to the city within the next twenty years of about $20,000,000, or enough to almost wipe out the city's bonded indebtedness." This forecast is somewhat murky. The city's bonded debt at this time is something less than $6,000,000, and we cannot for the life of us figure out an additional bonded debt of $14,000,000 even with all the public utilities of Omaha converted into bonds. How the city is to save a million a year by the water works purchase is also beyond our horizon. The gross receipts of the water company, including the $100,000 of water rent, scarcely exceed $350,000 a year, and it will take a phenomenal growth for it to reach the million-dollars-a-year mark twenty years hence.

Stealing chickens at night time is to be made a penitentiary offense in Iowa. We thought that the patent for this chicken-stealing remedy belonged to the imperial state of Georgia, where chicken stealing was made a penitentiary offense as a check to the predatory habits of the southern negroes, but more especially to divest them of the elective franchise after they emerged from the penitentiary.

There is nothing unreasonable in the order issued by the mayor and Advisory board to compel theater proprietors to place fire-alarm boxes on or adjacent to the stage at their own expense. The most sacred duty of municipal government is to safeguard the lives of the people. This applies especially to people who patronize places of public amusement.

If it is true that the occupants of dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the gas works are liable to lose their lives at any time by possible explosions, decisive action for their protection should be taken by the municipal authorities or the gas company.

The taxes paid in Nebraska by the Standard Oil octopus may be devoted with impunity to the maintenance of the university, but contributions from Rockefeller drawn out of the Standard Oil treasury must be rejected, because they are bloodstained.

Lacks the Clevelandesque.

Chicago Tribune.

Mr. Cleveland denies that he said, "let him go it," and we are ready to believe him. He could not possibly have conveyed the idea in four words averaging two and a half letters each.

The Burning Butt In.

Philadelphia North American.

Although 46,000,000 Havana cigars were brought to the United States last year, apparently none of them fell into the hands of the men who carry lighted cigars into the trolley cars.

The Only Thing that Flew.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

It is unkind and unjust to suggest a congressional investigation into Prof. Langley's expenditures on his airship, since the money was the only thing connected with the experiments that succeeded in flying.

Birds of a Feather Flocking.

Chicago Chronicle.

General James B. Weaver, champion of "rag money," and Colonel James Hamilton Lewis, the eccentric ex-congressman from Washington, are the latest notables to join the motley political group now assembling under the yellow flag.

The People Still Live.

Springfield Republican.

With corners in wheat and cotton—in food and clothing—the people still live, and even manage to weather one of the severest winters ever known. They are getting so hardened to speculative plundering that the exactions of the elements are made easier to endure.

Is Freedom Forgotten?

Boston Transcript.

A pedestrian statue of Kosciuszko, to stand in Lafayette square, Washington, has been approved by President Roosevelt. No location, however, has been assigned to the statue of shrieking freedom, which, to popular thought, should accompany the Polish patriot.

Democracy's Greatest Need.

Indianapolis Journal

Colonel Henry Watterson, after a week or two of comparative silence, has come out with a striking and original epigram. He says, "The democratic party needs votes." Can that be the trouble? Bryan thinks it needs silver, Hearst thinks it needs him, Cleveland thinks it needs sanity, but Marse Henry says it needs votes. Perhaps he has hit on the great need of democracy.

Great Expectations.

New York Tribune.

Radium will have to do a good many things to keep up with the doctors' expectations of it. It is to cure cancer, baldness, insomnia and stuttering, turn negroes white, destroy injurious germs and foster benignant ones, and is constantly disclosing new potencies of the most diverse and unexpected character. The public is prepared to believe a good deal about the therapeutic and other possibilities of this remarkable substance, but there is such a thing as overstretching the string of expectancy, and this the doctors ought to know better than anybody else, though they do not hang out the tokens of it half so conspicuously as the subject would warrant.

Another Hopeless Quest.

New York World.

That Mr. Bryan has his "eagle eye" on Mr. Dietrich's seat in the senate, as stated in the World, does not seem to alarm the republicans nor encourage the democrats of Nebraska. The former say he has not a ghost of a chance, the latter say only a "fighting" chance of carrying the legislature.

The figures of the last election in Nebraska indicate that Mr. Bryan's quest for the senatorship is as much of a "wild-goose chase" as were his campaigns for the presidency. The republican majority for supreme court judge last November was above 9,000, and the new legislature is republican by 73 majority on joint ballot—106 republicans, 27 fusionists.

Still, this senatorial prize is the only thing "in sight" for Mr. Bryan politically, and to secure it he is willing to deny to the democratic party of the nation its only chance of carrying the election.

DO NOT RELAX VIGILANCE.

Consumers Are Entitled to Know What They Are Buying.

Detroit Free Press.

People afraid of impure food cannot afford to rely solely upon government protection even though the house has passed the Hepburn bill with an emphasis imparted by an overwhelming majority. It has to pass through other stages before it can become a law, and even if it be given a place on the statute books the methods of evasion are never far behind those of prevention. Many of the states have laws against impure and adulterated foods that, if enforced, would keep such foods out of the market and put those offering them out of business. But the laws fail to meet the purpose for which they were enacted, and the buyer has to select table supplies with the finest discrimination in order to be sure that a fair proportion of what he eats is not a cheap imitation, or kept in a salable condition through the use of preservatives condemned by the medical profession.

There is never an important move made to insure pure food that does not encounter cunning, or worse. In this same Hepburn bill there was an original provision that in the case adulteration was charged the onus of proof would rest upon the government. This would have gone far toward defeating the purpose of the proposed law and was practically an encouragement to its violation. It would be interesting to know just how that clause came to be a part of the original measure, and how a man of Mr. Hepburn's legislative experience failed to eliminate it before the house came to final deliberation. Consumers are at least entitled to know what they are buying to eat and it is only right that if an article be misbranded or if an article bought as genuine prove to be adulterated, the fact should in itself make a prima facie case against the seller. The bill was amended to conform with this idea of its utility, but if made a law there will be the same shrewd schemes to fool the authorities that have met with paying success in the different states. The new officers to be created may be equal to their task, but the people insisting upon pure food will have to do much of their own detective work.

FRATERNAL INSURANCE.

Lessons of the Recent Collapse of the Bankers' Union in Omaha.

San Francisco Chronicle.

A Nebraska insurance order bearing the impressive name of the Bankers' Union of the World has been placed in the hands of a receiver by the supreme court because the deputy state auditor made a convincing showing of its insolvency. The order was organized five years ago by a Dr. E. C. Spinney of Omaha, where its headquarters were established. Spinney has been its president from the start, and appears to have regarded it as an agent of personal profit, however it may have affected the general membership, for the president had a healthy salary attached to it, according to Spinney's own admission. The deputy state auditor alleges that Spinney drew a salary of $20,000 during 1903. Spinney explains that only $6,000 of this was on account of salary, $7,000 having been drawn for commissions, $1,000 paid to his wife for editing the official paper, and $5,000 worth of stock issued in his favor by order of the directors. He thus accounts for $19,000 of the $20,000 charged by the deputy state auditor as having been received by him.

Evidently the Bankers' Union of the World was something like the Order of Chosen Friends, which came to a disastrous end in this state a few years ago, in which the members got valuable experience and lost all their money. The Omaha concern reached out for business in all directions. It invaded twenty-five states and carried life insurance policies aggregating $25,000,000. It has come to grief because its revenues were inadequate to meet the claims against it for death payments. The unhappy feature in the failure is that the sufferers are doubtless mostly persons of slender means, who were tempted to join the order by the easy method which it provided for paying the premium in monthly installments.

The principle of mutual life insurance embodied in several of the fraternal orders has proved to be eminently sound. Some of them have been in existence for over a quarter of a century, and they are stronger today than they ever were. Some of them, such as the Royal Arcanum, have adopted the wise policy of providing a reserve fund which can be drawn upon in case of an emergency, without increasing the burdens of the membership. In the case of the Royal Arcanum this reserve fund is steadily increasing and now approximates $3,000,000, all of which has been accumulated within a few years, almost unconsciously to the members, out of a trifling percentage of their monthly installments. The successful fraternal insurance organizations have been conservatively managed on the strictest principles of life insurance. Their success has, however, been used by unscrupulous adventurers to organize kindred institutions for self-gain. The latter made it easy for men and women who had been rejected by the sound orders and insurance companies, because of some physical or moral disability, to obtain membership. Thus they had a mushroom growth, and then came to grief, like the Bankers' Union of the World, whenever the states in which their headquarters were established exercised the right to investigate their affairs. State supervision over all of these institutions seems to be necessary for the protection of policy holders and to prevent fraud.

ALL THAT IS LEFT OF IT.

How Have the Mighty Fallen—A Reminiscence.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The announcement that the League of American Wheelmen, the famous L. A. W., which at one time counted a membership of 103,000, will hold its annual meeting in Boston on February 10, is interesting chiefly as showing that the organization actually exists. The membership has dwindled to about 4,000, of whom many are life members, and many more of that faithful and sentimental sort who cling to old things because they have contracted the habit.

At one time the bicycle craze possessed the whole country; the youth who did not have a bicycle was a forlorn and much abused person; middle-aged men and women who did not care very much for wheeling learned because they did not want to be left behind in the procession; old persons displayed extraordinary energy in taking up cycling, and all the world was awheel. Millions were invested in the business; the official bulletin of the league was a pretentious publication; membership in the league was a thing which it did not seem possible to be without, and every hamlet and every city block had its club.

We believe that messenger boys still use the wheel; the bicycle still has a mild sort of fascination for some small children, and in lower Texas and in the remoter parts of the Adirondacks the young men and women ride occasionally; but the craze is gone, the fad is played out, the wheel has been passed and left behind. How the crazes lift us off out feet—bicycling, golf, automobiling. Will it be flying machines next?

PERSONAL NOTES.

"Buffalo" Jones, in charge of the herd of buffalo in Yellowstone Park, is in Washington.

More than six thousand theater people are stranded in Chicago and vicinity. And the walking was never worse.

A Scotchman who came to New York City to buy a farm in Manitoba has gone home disgusted, because America is too big.

The English no sooner crossed the border than they knocked an "h" out of Thibet that had been there from time immemorial.

Calen Thorpe, believed to have been the oldest soldier in the civil war, is dead in Millersburg, O., at the age of 103. He was past 60 when he enlisted. His widow is 101 years old.

A whisky advertisement advises travelers to take a bottle of theirs with them, "it will make the journey smoother." Now, which one of these humpity-hump railroads does it mean?

D. B. Leonard of Cordele, Ga., sold three bales of cotton last week, which he raised in 1881 and has held ever since, refusing to sell for less than 15 cents a pound. He finally got his price.

H. V. Millard of California is studying mining in the Black Hills prior to going to Abyssinia, where he has received from the Emperor Menelik valuable concessions in the matter of gold mining.

J. N. Langham, assistant United States district attorney for the western district of Pennsylvania, has been called to Washington by Attorney General Knox to be retained in the Department of Justice as a consulting attorney.

"It is curious," says the London Chronicle, "that Nicholas II, one of the greatest of living monarchs, should also be one of the smallest—from the physical point of view; and had he carried out his intention of visiting the King of Italy, we should have been treated to the spectacle of a meeting between two of the shortest sovereigns of their time. Yet the czar, however small and slight of stature, has somewhat the advantage as regards inches of King Victor Emmanuel II, who requires to get into the saddle, like Napoleon III, before he can be seen at his best. There is nothing in the appearance of Nicholas II to suggest his sonship to Alexander III, who was almost a giant, or of Victor Emmanuel to recall the burly soldier-like figure of his father and his grandfather."

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot.

A western senator, whose name is suppressed, but who ranks among the eligible widowers of the "august senate," was the recipient of a leap year proposition the other day. Nebraska is conspicuously in the eligible list, and possibly the tender suggestion points our way. Evidently it reached a senator who was not in a receptive mood, else the heart-appealing missive would not appear in the garish columns of the Post. The lady in the case hails from Kansas and this is her style:

"Dear Senator: I read you are one of the widowers of the senate who would more than likely be the one who would be next to get married. Now, I write you this to ask you, if you are not engaged to any lady, if you would consider myself as a candidate for that sacred trust. I am a widow, 56 years old, and should like a good and loving husband, one whom I could love and trust. I find life too lonesome to live without a good man. You may think this very impertinent in me to write you, but I assure you I am no adventuress, only one who is so lonely, and there are no eligible men in this town.

"I will wait with patience your answer; then I will tell you more of myself and who I am."

The senator's response to this tender missive was written by his secretary, who is an unfeeling man and fully capable of slamming the door in the face of hope.

Secretary Loeb at the White House the other day opened a letter from a Kansas woman who began by saying she was a soldier's widow. Thinking it related to pensions and the communication being very long, he sent it to Pension Commissioner Ware. The latter read it through and found that the writer asked for a great many impossibilities, winding up with a request that the president send her some of his cast-off clothing for her children. Next morning Mr. Loeb received the following, signed by Eugene F. Ware: "My Dear Secretary: This letter does not belong to this bureau. We have none of the president's old clothes on file. I suggest that you go over the presidential wardrobe and send this good woman something. I would not send her the president's shoes. Mr. Hanna wants them."

Democratic Leader Williams, in his reply to Mr. Boutell, in the house, told an anecdote of old-time Tennessee politics. He prefaced it with some reference to the defeat of Meredith P. Gentry, an old line whig, for governor, by Andrew Johnson, afterward president. Gentry went into a state of decline soon after the election, his wife died, and he was chagrined because he "had been run over by that calf," having held Johnson in great contempt.

"Gentry became more and more melancholy," said Mr. Williams, "until finally a lot of old whigs concluded to invite him to Knoxville to the house of old Dr. Sandy Williams and have a party of friends meet him there and have a nice time and make him forget his sorrows.

"In those days the gentlemen had their long-necked demijohns with their whisky, and these old Tennessee whigs drank until pretty late at night, when old Sandy said:

"'Gentlemen, you know it is the custom of my house, whenever there is a minister of the gospel present, to have prayers before we retire. Brother Brownlow (Parson Brownlow) will now (in the words of the speaker) lead us in prayer.'

"Brother Brownlow, who was powerful in prayer, expanded and expanded, and began to pray for everything. At last he said:

"'And, O Lord, if in Thy infinite mercy, it be possible, have mercy also upon Andrew Johnson.'

"Then it was that Meredith P. Gentry, great man that he was, arose with tears streaming down his face and exclaimed:

"'Stop, Mr. Brownlow, stop; you will exhaust the fount of infinite mercy.'"

"I see that Colonel Bryan wants the next democratic national convention to ratify the Kansas City platform in its entirety," said M. D. Garwood of Chicago to a Washington Post reporter.

"A good many people will recall the fact that Colonel Bryan got at Kansas City reaffirmation of the platform of 1896 by the slender majority of one vote. Prince David, the delegate from Hawaii, cast the vote that saved the old platform with its declaration in favor of the 16 to 1 theory.

"The inside of this affair is interesting, and up to this time has never been in print. This Prince David, an amiable and fairly intelligent young Kanaka, was a delegate to the convention. He knew but little as to the merits of the free silver cause, and in reality cared less. His adhesion to the Bryan wing was, as he told me, based on a sentiment of gratitude. He said that when former Queen Lil had been despoiled of her throne Colonel Bryan had taken her side and expressed the opinion that a great act of injustice had been perpetrated. The prince had at last got to a place where he could return a kindness, and he threw his vote in favor of again affirming democratic allegiance to free silver."

It looks as though the proposition which has been talked about more or less for many years of having the government suitably mark the graves of the confederate dead was at last to be adopted. This week the senate passed a bill making an appropriation of $200,000 to defray the cost of locating these graves and to erect a small headstone over each, similar to those placed over the graves of the soldiers of the confederate section of Arlington cemetery.

The number of graves to be thus marked aggregate more than 30,000. This takes in all confederate soldiers who died in federal prisons and military hospitals in the north, and who were buried near their places of confinement. The bill authorizes the secretary of war to acquire possession of these burying grounds and directs him to see that the same are properly fenced in and cared for in the future. It is estimated that probably 20,000 of the confederate soldiers are buried outside of national cemeteries, where they are uncared for by the government. The graves of many have been entirely obliterated. The senate bill is in charge of Representative Grosvenor in the house. The latter has stated that he proposes to call it up at the first opportunity, and it is thought that it will become a law inside of the next ten days. A list has been prepared showing the location and number of all the confederate graves that are to be marked under the terms of the bill.

President Roosevelt's elaborate entertaining at the White House is understood to compel him to make serious inroads upon his private fortune. The $50,000 he receives as salary from the government is far too small to stand the strain of a constant succession of receptions, dinners, luncheons, musicales and teas. Few of his predecessors in office saved anything, and President Roosevelt has surpassed all of them in brilliancy of the functions which have made the White House the real center of Washington social gayety.

President Roosevelt is not wealthy. When he was elected governor of New York his fortune was estimated at $250,000. He also derived some revenue from the royalties of his books, and his prestige as president has since increased their popularity.

The president himself defrays the bulk of the expenses of his household. Providing the table comes out of his pocket. The furniture is purchased by the government. Provision is made for the payment of some servants. The president is also allowed a carriage, but he has not availed himself of the privilege. He maintains a large and expensive stable, including several saddle horses for himself and Mrs. Roosevelt and ponies for his children.

LAUGHING LINES.

"There's one kind of hunting that there is no closed season for," said Cumso to Cawker.

"What sort is that?

"Hunting trouble."—Detroit Free Press.

Hack Writer—How would you like an article on Solomon?

Magazine Editor—First-rate, if you can only furnish a complete set of portraits of his wives.—Somerville Journal.

"Your trouble," announced the physician, after a thorough examination, "is an affection of the heart."

"If anything of that kind is the matter with me, doctor," said the patient, a confirmed old bachelor, "it's purely platonic."—Chicago Tribune.

"I don't dare to tell madame how fine she looks in that gown," said the modiste standing off to admire it. "It would turn her head."

"But I want to make it turn other women's heads," protested the stately dame, frowning at herself in the mirror.—Philadelphia Press.

"You always appear to be nervous," remarked the friend, solicitously.

"But, really," replied the housekeeper "there are only two occasions when I am nervous. One is when I have a servant girl and the other is when I haven't."—Chicago Tribune.

Chaucer was explaining his method.

"I simply dictate and let my stenographer spell as she likes," he said.

Wondering nobody had thought of such an easy dialect scheme before, he ground out "The Boke of the Duchesse."—New York Sun.

"How is your boy getting along?"

"First-rate."

"Studying hard?"

"No. He writes me that he doesn't have to. He is eating a lot of the patent foods that build up the brain and make successful men."—Washington Star.

"But," said the merchant to the applicant, "you don't furnish any reference from your last place."

"You needn't worry about that," replied the man with the close-cropped head and prison pallor, "I wouldn't be here now if it hadn't been for my good behavior in my last place."—Philadelphia Press.

Teacher—I am a thorough believer in reincarnation.

Willie (aside)—If she ever comes back here as a chicken I'm goin' to chop her head off.—Detroit Free Press.

Job showed the little, round, sore spot on his arm to his physician.

"What is that, doctor?" he asked.

"That is a boil," pronounced the medical man, after a brief examination.

"A boil?" echoed Job. "Well, that's a new one on me!"

Later, however, there were others on him.—Chicago Tribune.

SCHOOL FADS AND FRILLS.

They taught him to hemstitch and they
taught him how to sing.
And how to make a basket out of variegated string.
And how to fold a paper so he wouldn't
hurt his thumb,
They taught a lot to Bertie, but he
Couldn't do a sum.

They taught him how to mold the head of
Hercules in clay.
And how to tell the difference 'twixt the
bluebird and the jay.
And how to sketch a horse in a little picture frame,
But strangely they forgot to teach him
How to spell his name.

Now, Bertie's pa was cranky, and he went
one day to find
What 'twas they did that made his son so
backward in his mind.
"I don't want Bertie wrecked," he cried,
his temper far from cool,
"I want him educated!" so he
Took him out of school.

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