

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, deposes that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning Bee, published at Omaha, Nebraska, during the month of December, 1904, was as follows:

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GEORGE B. TSCHUCK, Notary Public. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, 1904. (Seal) M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

Judged by the commission it is making, the Omaha grain market is pretty healthy for a 1-year-old.

Rioting in the streets of Rome has a much different sound to the present head of the house of Savoy than it had to his grandfather thirty-five years ago.

Political revolutions may not be so prevalent in San Domingo in future, but there will probably be a business revolution which will make some of the natives dizzy.

More reliable than the return of the birds is that forecast of spring which comes from Chicago in the form of a resumption of labor troubles in the building trades.

French dancing masters have declared war on the cakewalk. Next year, after they have taken the life out of the step and changed its name, it will probably be returned to America with French approval.

The fire fund was increased by the last legislature from \$125,000 to \$150,000, an increase of 20 per cent. That ought to take care of the fire department in a city of Omaha's size for a few years to come.

That the czar is looking backward rather than forward is indicated from the fact that he is taking advice from Grand Duke Sergius, the representative of an older generation, who has yet to realize how fast the world is progressing.

If the president succeeds in securing legislation providing for the collection of marriage and divorce statistics by states, Utah may have an opportunity to point the finger of scorn at some of its sister commonwealths which have been horrified lately.

Grover Cleveland shows no more signs of lapsing into innocuous desuetude than does William J. Bryan. The fact that both of them take special pains to keep in the limelight would indicate that both of them want to be ready for any emergency that may present.

It is gratifying to know that the supreme court has permitted the Northern Securities case to come before it again, as in these days, when combinations in restraint of trade are threatened, the sooner the promoters know the legal way of going out of business the better for all concerned.

St. Petersburg received the news of fighting on the Shakhie in successive messages about as follows: "We won a victory." "The fight was unimportant." "Japanese soldiers caused us to retreat." "As each one of these sentences came on a different day it is easy to understand how the Russians are kept constantly in the dark as to the real condition of the empire.

If it were only Omaha that required direct primary elections no lawmaking by the legislature for that purpose would be necessary. The party committees here have worked out a fairly satisfactory form of nomination by direct vote for officers to be filled in city and county and they can get along under the present arrangements without embarrassment. To make direct nominations effective throughout the state, however, will require legislation.

One company of firemen had a narrow escape from an explosion of chemicals in Sunday's fire, and there has been scarcely a big conflagration in Omaha in which the fire fighters have not been exposed to unnecessary danger from stored explosives. The Bee still advocates the enactment of an ordinance regulating the sale and storage of explosives and inflammable oils within the city limits and providing for a rigid inspection of all store houses in which high combustibles are kept.

THE BEEF TRUST DECISION.

The decision of the supreme court of the United States in the Beef trust case, affirming the decision of the lower court and continuing the injunction against the combine of packers, will be popularly hailed as a most notable victory for both the government and the people. The court was unanimous in the opinion that a conspiracy on the part of the packers, for controlling the livestock market and the dressed meat trade, existed and that the offense was of a nature to justify proceedings by the government. The evidence before the lower court established conclusively the fact that there was such a combine among the packers as the Sherman anti-trust law declares to be unlawful and this was fortified by the comprehensive statement of Attorney General Moody before the supreme court.

This decision is even more important, so far as the general public is concerned, than that in the Northern Securities case, and it gives added force to the anti-trust law. It may not have an immediate effect upon the cattle and meat markets, which perhaps at present are controlled by other influences than those exerted by the packers' combine, but ultimately an effect favorable to the public is reasonably to be expected. It is to be presumed that if the packers are not already obeying the injunction they will at once do so, since disregard of it would render them liable to criminal prosecution and it is safe to assume that the federal authorities would not hesitate to apply the penalty. We may be sure that there will be prompt action at Washington if the packers are found disobeying the decree of the court. Among the great combinations now in being more odious than the Beef trust and there will be a universal feeling of gratification at the decision which breaks up this conspiracy against the people.

A QUESTIONABLE PROVISION.

One of the few points upon which the various charter committees are said to have agreed is an amendment limiting current expenses of different departments of the city government to the revenue accruing to each special fund during the year and turning over to the sinking fund all balances and all delinquent tax collections that are now distributed between the funds. The inevitable result of such a charter requirement will be to leave no balances in the funds, but to force the officers charged with the expenditure of each fund to spend every cent available for any one year before the expiration of that year. The very object of dividing the annual tax levy for city purposes into a composite of separate tax levies for the separate funds is to insure the appropriation of each proportionate part of the tax paid by each individual taxpayer to the designated object. The payment of the tax in a lump sum instead of in separate items for each fund is simply for the convenience of the taxpayer and the tax collector. So if a property owner in this year, 1905, pays a delinquent tax for the year 1895, he is still paying simply an aggregate of so many mills for the general fund, so many for the park fund, so many for the police fund, etc., that he would have been paying had he met his taxes before they became delinquent. To say that all of the taxes, if paid after the date of delinquency, shall go into the sinking fund, is the same as transferring the money from every other fund into the sinking fund and destroys the whole system of checks and balances supposed to be provided by the system of separate funds.

THE BANKRUPTCY LAW.

A revival of hostility to the bankruptcy law has been shown in congress and there is promise of a determined effort for either the repeal of the act or its general amendment. When a few days ago the house judiciary committee was giving a hearing on bills amending the bankruptcy law it was found that several members of the committee are strongly opposed to the law as it stands. They are reported as declaring that the original intent of the act had been entirely lost sight of and that it is now used by dishonest debtors as a means of escaping payment of their just obligations. Representative Bassett of New York, author of a bill to amend the law, presented to the judiciary committee facts to show that the law is being perverted from its intended purpose as a help to honest debtors and is now much more the means of accomplishing frauds. He was of the opinion that probably a majority of the merchants and manufacturers of our large cities would like to see the law repealed. He declared that unless the law is soon modified to prevent the present free discharge from debts it will become a scandal and the people will demand its repeal.

A subcommittee was appointed to consider the whole subject and report as soon as possible. The present bankruptcy act was the result of patient work and prolonged deliberation. The necessity for such legislation had long been felt by the mercantile interests of the country and it was urged upon congress by all the influential business organizations. We are inclined to doubt whether a majority of merchants and manufacturers would approve the repeal of the law and the restoration of former conditions. That the act is not perfect must be admitted. This has been declared by some of the ablest jurists. But the defects are certainly remediable and this is the task to which the house judiciary committee should address itself, rather than giving consideration to the proposed repeal of the act. The country needs a uniform bankruptcy law. This was conclusively shown under the conditions that existed before the present law was enacted. Congress in its wisdom should be able to find and remove the defects from the law and so change it that it will be just and satisfactory in its operation.

REPORTS OF CORPORATIONS.

There appears to be a good prospect that the bill in congress requiring all corporations engaged in interstate commerce to make annual reports to the Department of Commerce and Labor will be passed at the present session. It is understood to have the support of the administration and Commissioner Garfield of the bureau of corporations earnestly advocated the measure before the house judiciary committee a few days ago. He urged that the proposed legislation would be a very good and safe guide for the collection of information regarding corporations by the government and also afford to congress the information upon those conditions concerning which the greatest complaint has been made. He explained that under existing legislation there is no way in which the information regarding corporations obtained by the Department of Commerce and Labor shall be made public, as the law requires such reports to be made to the president, who has entire discretion as to whether or not they shall be given publicity.

Assuming that congress has the authority to require reports from corporations doing an interstate business, there are very substantial reasons why the authority should be exercised. The proposed legislation contemplates nothing that any honestly and legitimately conducted corporation can reasonably object to. It simply provides that the government shall be annually furnished with certain general information regarding interstate corporations and that this may be supplied to congress whenever called for. As we understand the bill it is not intended to require corporations to go into all the details of their business, but simply to supply such facts respecting their business as will acquaint

the government in a general way with their operations. The new department, with its bureau of corporations, was created with this in view and the bureau will hardly be able to fully and effectively carry out the purpose of its organization unless there is such legislation as is embodied in the bill referred to. It can of course under existing law investigate the condition and operations of the corporations engaged in interstate business, but this involves a great deal of work and necessarily a very considerable expenditure. This would be to a large extent obviated under the proposed legislation and doubtless the results would be quite as satisfactory. Some of the corporations undoubtedly would be found entirely willing to comply with a law requiring annual reports to the government and others would in time fall into line, since any corporation that should persistently refuse compliance would subject itself to public suspicion that its affairs were not being legitimately conducted.

ROYAL HILARITY UNLACED FOR.

Meantime, the mikado should not be too elated. All monarchs ruling by "divine right" will be due to have their resignation papers handed to them one of these days. Old Prophets Drew the Line. Mr. Smoot says he cannot see why monarchs are not just as reliable as prophets who have been dead a long time. The prophets of old never tackled the weather.

YEARS BEHIND THE PROCESSION.

It was thought a few days ago that Russia had finally succeeded in advancing to the point that was reached by France when the revolution began. Apparently the supposition was unfounded. The Russians are still about 130 years behind the procession.

WHERE THE TROUBLE LIES.

The gist of the diplomatic discussion over Chinese neutrality, expressed somewhat diplomatically, is that the use of force or non-force is to be accepted as essentially inflexible and inerrant, but that the conflicting statements of all concerned would best be referred to some impartial tribunal.

WHERE THE SWITCH KEY RESTS.

That the popular house of congress is strongly in harmony with the president in his movement against the railroads seems to be fully established, but the senate can not be counted on. It is in the upper house that the railroads are said to be entrenched and it remains to be seen whether the railway interests can control the senate or not.

"JOKERS" IN THE HEPBURN BILL.

According to some of the Washington correspondents the Hepburn railroad rate-repeal bill is already beginning to find acceptance in congressional circles as a joke. The joke is on the administration, not the railroads. The attorneys of the latter, who are laboring in Washington, chuckle when the bill is mentioned to them. They could not have filled it much fuller with "jokers" had they had the entire making of it.

AMONG THE "DUTY-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE."

There are men who care for the opinion of no man who is not in a position to advance their personal interests regardless of its effect upon the country at large, and that these people are confined to no particular party.

AS A RESULT OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BY A SPECIAL COMMISSIONER, THE WORLD-HERALD ANNOUNCES THAT GOVERNOR FOLK NEVER ISSUED HIS SO-CALLED RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LOBBYISTS AT ALL.

It is up to the World-Herald now to withdraw that fervid open letter which it directed to Governor Mickey, making demand upon him that he forthwith adopt and promulgate the Folk rules for Nebraska.

IF THE EFFECT OF THE LATEST NOTE OF SECRETARY HAY IS TO KEEP BOTH SIDES OF THE PRESENT CONTEST IN THE EAST FROM WINNING TRACES OF VICTORY, THE DISTINGUISHED SECRETARY OF STATE MAY HAVE DONE MORE TO MAKE WAR UNPOPULAR THAN ALL OF THE CONVENTIONS OF ALL THE PEACE CONGRESS.

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THIRTEEN OF WAGE EARNERS.

Billions in Savings Banks and Building and Loan Associations. The total number of depositors in the savings banks of the United States has doubled in the last seventeen years. The total amount of their deposits has increased from \$1,253,247,371 in 1887 to \$2,453,247,371 during the year 1903. The official statistics for 1903 show 7,302,223 individual depositors.

About one-half of the amount deposited represents the savings of the wage earning class. The figures here given not only show an increasing prosperity among those of small incomes, they also indicate an increasing frugality.

Of the total deposits of the entire country not less than 38.5 per cent are in the state of New York. The part of this grand total of deposits which is credited to the wage earning class does not represent all the savings of that group. The building and loan associations, with total assets of more than \$500,000,000, are a favorite form of investment for many. They provide for life insurance and even modest investment in stocks and bonds are other means of accumulation.

Many wage earners in small cities own their own homes. All this shows that the wage earners of the United States have a large share in our national prosperity.

INCREASED GOLD OUTPUT.

World's Supply of \$525,500,000 a Year Quickly Distributed. No phase of the financial situation has attracted more attention in the forecast of the coming year than the increased output of gold of the world. Eight years ago this product footed up a trifling over \$200,000,000; in 1890 it rose to \$300,700,000, sank to \$245,500,000 in 1900 during the Transvaal blockade, established a new high record in 1901 with \$300,000,000, has certainly exceeded this in 1904 with the \$360,000,000 increase in South Africa and will probably expand still further in the approaching year.

Leaving aside the general question of the influence of the new supplies on markets is a highly interesting question arises. Where does the new gold go? Even allowing for the substantial portion used in industry (upward of \$50,000,000) it is thus annually consumed for use by foreign nations, which nations are the beneficiaries? This country gets a reasonable share. During the last twelve months the treasury figures show that the American stock of gold in and out of the treasury had increased by \$52,000,000—nearly one-sixth of the whole world's output. The great European banking institutions, too, have had their share; nine of them have added \$200,000,000 gold to their reserves. \$85,000,000 went to the Bank of France, \$85,000,000 to the Imperial Bank of Russia, \$22,000,000 to the Bank of Germany and only \$2,000,000 to the Bank of England. When allowance is made for use by foreign nations the large amounts of gold which in European communities pass into hand-to-hand circulation, the balance unaccounted for of perhaps \$40,000,000 in the annual output is not excessive.

But the flow of this new gold from nation to nation is more peculiar. England owns the Transvaal mines, which have produced about \$70,000,000 gold these twelve last months, yet the Bank of England added only one-twentieth of this sum to its gold reserve. The past year's gold output in the United States was not far from \$50,000,000, yet scarcely one-third as much was added to our home circulation despite a large additional gold import. On the other hand, our country has yearly gold product of barely \$25,000,000, has been able to add four times that sum to the Imperial bank's reserve, while France, which produces no gold at all, stands second to Russia in the amount of gold added to its gold reserve.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Matters of interest cleaned from the Army and Navy Register. The army signal officers expect to have the signal corps outfit in full working order in Omaha by March 1. Much satisfactory progress is being made in that direction. Nothing appears to have been done, and nothing is in contemplation for doing anything, with army balloon work. In that direction there has been very little accomplished by this government, largely owing to the fact that there is a lack of funds for experimentation or trial construction. It is likely a balloon train will be kept at Omaha, although there are some reasons for suggesting Benicia, Cal., as a better place for that purpose. The reasons are mainly climatic, since balloon work in California can be carried on for 365 days in the year, practically, and in any other section of the country there would be interruption on account of the change in seasons and the inclemency of the weather.

THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY HAS COMPLETED THE DRAFT OF A GENERAL ORDER WHICH IS INTENDED AS A RELIEF FROM THE PRESENT CONFUSED AND COMPLICATED METHOD OF ADJUSTING THE CLOTHING ALLOWANCES OF THE ENLISTED FORCES OF THE ARMY.

Nothing in many years has been the subject of so much unfavorable comment as the existing system of making these allowances. The operation of the general order, applicable to the situation, has led to numerous interpretations, hardly two of which are alike. The system has brought about a confusion of mind and has served to deprive certain enlisted men of what really belongs to them. Two or three experts in the office of the quartermaster general of the army do the duty of adjusting the clothing allowances of the enlisted men of the army. It is with the greatest prospect of something to relieve this condition that the quartermaster general's office has prepared the text of the general order, which has gone to the general staff preparatory to its formal issue to the service. The draft of this order will be an enlisted man and insure them a reimbursement covering all they may have lost by the change in the army uniform from blue to olive drab, a transformation which has resulted in all this confusion. One paragraph provides that those whose first six months' enlistment were subsequent to June 30, 1904, and another paragraph provides for those whose six months' enlistment were prior to June 30, 1904.

OFFICERS IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT FAVOR THE CHANGE IN THE LAW WHICH WILL PERMIT THE SALE AT A PRICE NO LESS THAN COST OF INDIVIDUAL PIECES OF UNITED STATES ARMAMENT, WHICH CAN BE ADVANTAGEOUSLY REPLACED, WHERE THERE EXISTS FOR SUCH SALES SENTIMENTAL REASONS ADEQUATE IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE AUTHORITIES.

General Crozier, army chief of ordnance, is constantly in receipt of applications from relatives and friends of deceased officers and soldiers who desire to secure this or that article carried in the last days in the field. The idea is a commendable one and is a concession to sentiment which ought to be granted.

THE CONNECTICUT LEGISLATURE HAS SENT A PETITION TO CONGRESS IN THE FORM OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE STATE BODY, ASKING SENATOR HAWLEY, THE END OF WHOSE TERM IN THE SENATE IS APPROACHING, TO BE APPOINTED TO THE RETIRED LIST OF THE ARMY.

The senator has had a long career in the United States senate and has for many years been the chairman of the senate military committee, in which capacity he served with distinction and usefulness. The disposition in the senate is to agree to the proposition, but there is not the same sympathetic reception of the proposition in the house. There is a comparatively recent precedent, however, for such a thing in the appointment to the retired list of the navy of Mr. Boutelle of Maine at the end of his congressional career, during which he had served through successive sessions as chairman of the house naval committee. Senator Hawley has been unable for a year or more to attend to his senatorial duties. He will be succeeded in the senate on March 4 by Morgan B. Buckley, and in the next congress the chairman of the senate military committee will be Mr. Proctor of Vermont.

COMMUNICATION BY WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ACROSS NORTON SOUND, ALASKA, A DISTANCE OF 107 MILES, HAS NOW BEEN MAINTAINED BY THE SIGNAL CORPS INSTALLATION FOR SIX MONTHS, DURING WHICH TIME THERE HAS BEEN NO INTERRUPTION IN THE TRANSMISSION OF MESSAGES.

Recently forty-seven messages were transmitted in immediate succession without a break. Coupled with this satisfactory report of the excellent condition of the Alaskan land lines, the only untoward incident reported is that being relatively insignificant, being the breaking of the telegraph cable at Old Woman. Now that cable communication is established between Sitka and Valdez, communication with various parts of Alaska is maintained over the all-American lines.

A WONDERFUL FISH STORY, OR, RATHER, A WHALE STORY WHICH RIVALS THAT OF BIBLICAL FAME, IS CONTAINED IN THE REPORTS OF THE REPAIRING OF THE DISABLED CABLE BETWEEN SITKA AND VALDEZ, ALASKA, THE REPORT BEING PROPERLY AUTHORIZED BY A CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER OF THE ARMY.

This cablegram is from Major George Russel, signal corps, in charge of the cable ship Burnside, which was sent to Alaskan waters to repair the cable. Major Russel says: "Removed fault in cable seven miles from Sitka, caused by whale entangled in cable." When the cable was raised it was found that a dead whale was attached. Its jaws were firmly entangled in the wires and rubber insulation.

ARGUMENT AGAINST POOLING.

Scramble for Corn Trade Proves the Importance of Competition. Minneapolis Times. Chicago, awaiting under the loss of a large percentage of her corn trade, Omaha and Kansas City, coupled with the loss of much wheat business to Minneapolis, has been making strenuous efforts to check the development of the trade by the Gulf ports. The railroads, also suffering, have been readily induced to take the matter up, and as a result concessions of 7 cents a hundred have been made on grain from the Missouri river points through to the Atlantic coast ports. The Missouri Pacific and the Wabash, Gould roads, immediately met the cut as did competing southwestern lines. By this latter move the advantage of the Gulf route is still maintained. The fight is a fine thing for the corn raisers and shippers of the middle west and it is devoutly hoped that it may go on indefinitely.

THE STUFF ABOUT THE PUBLIC INTEREST, MUST, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BE MATERIALLY ENLARGED.

Congress has no longer time enough in

PERSONAL NOTES.

George S. Nixon, who is to succeed Senator Stewart as senator from Nevada, is a Californian by birth and has earned his own living from the time he was 13 years of age.

A gift of curios valued at \$20,000 has been offered to the Smithsonian institute by Charles L. Freer of Detroit. He is the owner of the famous Whistler collection of paintings.

Girls in a Chicago cooking school caused a \$5,000 fire. As long as the girls did not try their confessions on defenseless men in the town pockets the property loss will be becoming equanimity.

An English scientist asserts that men lost an important cog in their digestive machine when they parted with their appendix. Evidently the savant did not observe the victim chew the rag when the bills came in.

Gilbert Rossiter, year ago a writer of historical sketches concerning the northwest, has just died in Lake Forest, aged 82. He devoted much time to Indian legends connected with the early history of Illinois, Wisconsin and the Lake Superior region.

The little republic of Honduras is evidently in the line to fear a flourish of the big stick. Honduras owes a foreign debt of about \$5,000,000 and another stupendous sum of nearly \$75,000,000 in interest and arrears. Honduras appears to be the Mrs. Chadwick of rotten politics.

William Dean Howells has settled in San Remo for the winter, but finds that the monotonously regular routine at that lovely Italian resort pulls upon him as a native born American. Writing to a friend, the distinguished author says: "You have no idea how sick one gets of sunshine and calm. I should like to see a naked elm tree shuddering in a good old northerly storm."

Henry LaCombe, the circuit court judge in New York whom a Pennsylvania law firm wants to impeach, was appointed by President Cleveland. Judge LaCombe was corporation counsel in that city at one time under appointment of an anti-Tammany democratic mayor. When Judge LaCombe took his seat on the bench he appeared in a full dress suit, though it was in the forenoon. He said that he wished to show that he felt that the office deserved such recognition on his part.

COPPER AND TYPHOID FEVER.

Recent investigations on that line shatters some idols. American Medicine. The value of copper sulphate in destroying typhoid bacilli has recently been extensively exploited by the daily papers of Philadelphia. The basis of their reports is certain statements made by Dr. Edward Martin, director of Public Health and Charities under whose direction laboratory experiments have for some time been in progress, and also additional assertions by Dr. Moore of the Agricultural department at Washington, whose announcement on this subject earlier in the year created much discussion. As so often the case many of the newspaper claims are somewhat rosy, and are apt to arouse unjustified expectation on the part of people whose long-suffering endurance of polluted drinking water makes them intensely anxious for developments of federal legislation which would result in destroying typhoid bacilli in the laboratory may be extended and made possible of application to large bodies of water is a consummation devoutly to be desired, but that is a question of the future. In the meantime, the discussion on this subject bids fair to chatter like a chattering parrot in the house of the legislature and the people. We refer to the danger of copper poisoning from the use of cooking utensils made of that metal. Eminent physicians and chemists now announce this fear to be unfounded. Director Martin asserts positively that no harm will come from drinking water which has stood in copper vessels for four hours at living-room temperature or three or four times that long in refrigerators, though this will destroy all typhoid bacilli which may have been therein contained.

LONGER CONGRESS SESSIONS.

Changes Necessary to Conserve the Public Needs. New York Tribune. An extra session of the Fifty-ninth congress seems now a certainty. Our Washington dispatches announce that President Roosevelt will call the session together very next fall. It is apparent that an extra session must be resorted to if the new congress is to wrestle successfully with the legislative problems which are to come before it. No federal legislature in years has been confronted with a more serious and exacting program than that which will fall to the congress coming into existence on March 4. That body will need to bring to its task an exceptional store of intelligence, patience and industry, and it is from every point of view desirable that the two houses organize as soon as practicable and set to work.

It was some years ago the fashion to sneer at congress as a body whose activities it was the part of wisdom to minimize and suppress. President Cleveland once deplored the fact that he was about "to have congress on his hands"; but we have happily outgrown the frivolous notion that congress is, and can be, only a disturbing and meddlesome factor in national politics. So long as the party in power is content to play a mere negative role, the participation of the two houses in government may be looked on as an infliction, unwelcome, but necessary to be endured. But this narrow and patronizing valuation of the legislative branch can have no place in the thoughts of an executive broad-minded enough to appreciate the true functions of congress and to wish to make the house and senate partners in executing such policies as the national welfare demands.

It is becoming apparent, in fact, that the activities of the two houses, instead of being curtailed in the public interest, must, in the near future, be materially enlarged. Congress has no longer time enough in

A MATTER OF HEALTH.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Absolutely Pure HAS NO SUBSTITUTE.

which to do its legitimate and necessary work. Under our present arrangement of long and short sessions, three months are given one year and about six months another year to legislative business. The house of representatives elected in November, 1904, could not meet, except through a call from the president, until December, 1905. Two months would have to be taken to complete an organization, and then, with their own canvasses for renomination and re-election already beginning, the members would be expected to settle down to work. In a presidential year everything must be sacrificed to forcing an adjournment by June. In a mid-term year the struggle for the control of the legislature has equally distracting effect. Thus at the long session passing questions of party politics assume a wholly artificial importance, while at the short session there is barely time to crowd through the routine appropriation work.

To accomplish anything of special importance an extra session has now to be called. President Cleveland called one in 1887 to secure the repeal of the silver purchasing clauses of the Sherman act. President McKinley summoned one in 1897 to pass the Chinese exclusion act. President Roosevelt called one in 1902 to get the Cuban reciprocity bill through. Now congress is to meet ahead of time to consider railroad rate regulation and the possible modification of certain tariff schedules. The Tribune has long advocated a change in our political calendar which would carry inauguration day forward to April 30, thus relieving the legislative block at the short session. But this reform seems now more remote than ever. Yet the increasing scope and importance of federal legislation will make some lengthening of the present sessions more and more imperative. The expedient of extra sessions may serve for a time. Eventually, however, we must face the necessity of allotting congress an ample period for the discharge of duties which are becoming yearly more arduous and more complicated.

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

"Why does that night watchman wear such loud clothes?" "So as to let the burglars know that he is coming."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Knicker—So the burglar was found under the bed.

Hooker—Yes, his defense was absent-mindedness. Said he was so busy crawling under his bed to see why it didn't go.—New York Sun.

Esmeralda—What did Gwendolen say about my getting Jack Harmsden away from her?

Miss Tartan—Oh, she admires your skill because you had so many natural disadvantages to overcome. She says you practiced a kind of mental jiu-jitsu on the poor fellow.—Chicago Tribune.

"Did you spend money to get into public office?" "No," answered Senator Sorghum. "I didn't spend it. I gave it away; and then I bought it back."—Washington Star.

Mrs. McCull—I do wish I could get a good maid.

Mrs. Vandine—You might interview mine. I think she'd be delighted to go with you.

Mrs. McCull—But why don't you keep her?

Mrs. Vandine—Oh, she won't stay. She says she wants a place where she won't have to put up with me. She says to take care of—Philadelphia Press.

"A blizzard is a big nuisance," said Uncle Eben, "but it's a sort of comfort to find yourself in a merry climate."—Washington Star.

"He's talking now of becoming an actor." "Why, he hasn't any qualifications, has he?"

"Oh, yes; a friend of his died recently and left him a fat-lined overcoat and gold-headed cane."—Philadelphia Standard.

THE SHOVEL ON THE WALK.

Albany Times. What joy some winter morning

When I suddenly awake,

And find the thought of getting

'Up will make the covers shake,

When chilly drafts inform me

That 'twould be better to be

And looking out the window

I can see the falling snow—

Why, 'twould be better to be

To my neighbor's cheerful talk

When I hear the merry clatter

Of the shovel on the walk.

I make a mental picture