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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, Neb.: George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of January, 1905, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Number of copies. Includes rows for Total, Net total sales, and Daily average.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of January, 1905. (Seal) M. H. HUNGAN, Public.

When the ice breaks—look out for floods. The snow ball will soon give way to the base ball.

The power canal on the Loup is looming up in the dim but not very distant future.

The time of the state senate for the greater part of this week will be taken up with irrigation and Christian Science.

Were the dowager empress of Russia only as wise as she is brave her son might not have to be hiding in his palace.

Now that the North Sea commission has reported the world is wondering what the interested parties are going to do about it.

In making his rules against those who wrongfully interfere with legislation Governor Folk evidently overlooked the sneak thief.

Now that gold has been discovered in Scotland one can understand the desperate efforts of the early kings of England to conquer the northern kingdom.

Wasn't it rather cruel for the state senate to postpone indefinitely the bill providing for teaching the principles of kindness to animals in the public schools?

Abdul Hamid must take an unwholy delight in calling the attention of the man who helped to frame the Macedonian reforms to conditions existing at Batoum.

If Missouri republicans really think that democrats will help them break the deadlock over the senatorship they are easily fooled. The rest of us will have to be shown.

Carrie Nation should keep a newspaper man constantly in attendance from now on and make sure that her life is saved whenever more free advertising is needed.

If the movement of coal to Vladivostok continues Japan will have a choice collection of merchant marine flags of the world for sale at bargain prices by the end of the war.

The last legislative junket has been concluded. From now on until the end of the session members who want to make use of their passes will have to be excused for playing truant.

It should be distinctly understood, however, that in putting an embargo on floral tributes, the worthy senators at Washington are registering no objections to testimonials of a more lasting and substantial kind.

The guess is ventured by the Lincoln Star that it will be some time before Omaha's two passenger stations are connected. Perhaps about as much time as before Lincoln's new union station is opened to the public.

It is time for something to happen again where the big armies are facing one another in Manchuria. It has happened with such monotonous regularity so far that something different is needed to make it a surprise.

If congress objects to permitting Chinamen to enter the West Point Military academy, we have the foot ball departments of other colleges where they can just as surely be taught to kill in the most approved manner.

A bill has been introduced in the South Dakota legislature providing a penalty when a physician prescribes liquor in cases where there is no ailment—which goes to show how prohibition operates where the prescription counter takes the place of the bar.

FRENZIED ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION.

In defining the position of Kansas in its warfare upon the Standard Oil trust, Governor Hoch makes the following declaration through the Chicago Tribune:

The fight Kansas is making is a fight for fair play—a fight to restore competition and to relieve a great and growing industry from the grasp of an industrial despotism.

We hope to prove by actual demonstration that the Standard Oil company has robbed the oil producer on one hand and the consumer on the other.

By engaging in this battle as a state we hope, first, to encourage the location of independent refineries with the assurance that they will have the protection of the state; and, second, to enlist other states and the general government in a battle against monopolistic tyranny.

The proposed state refinery is simply a means to an end—not the end itself. The question the people of Kansas and the people of the whole country must ask themselves is, "Does the end justify the means?"

Will not frenzied legislation to free Kansas from the grasp of an industrial despotism strain to the utmost the powers that a commonwealth may exercise under our system of government?

Are we not liable to sap the foundations of constitutional self-government by rushing headlong into state socialism to escape from monopolistic tyranny?

Is not the remedy applied by the state of Kansas in its effort to restore competition very much like sprinkling the potato vines with Paris green in order to kill the Colorado potato bug?

In the midst of great excitement a cool head, steady nerves and clear vision are the qualities most desired in a popular leader. In the conflict with gigantic combinations the country must endeavor to solve the problems not by spasmodic legislation, but by sane and rational supervision and regulation, that will hold water in the courts and strengthen rather than cripple the republic.

Congress has a right to prohibit combinations in restraint of trade and assume supervision over interstate commerce so that the rights of the people are safeguarded. The states have a right also to prohibit monopolistic combinations and conspiracies to destroy competition under severe penalties, but under our constitutional form of government neither congress nor the states can fix the price of commodities whether they are owned and sold by individuals or corporations.

No other congress or any state legislature legitimately divert money collected by taxation for the fabrication of any commodity, however needful it may be for the people, in order to break up monopoly by federal or state competition.

The people of Kansas have a just grievance against the Standard Oil company for pursuing a reprehensible policy of self-aggrandizement. They are rightfully resentful over the ruinous competition to which the independent producers of oil in Kansas have been subjected at the hands of the Oil trust, but their campaign of retribution must strike every thoughtful American as fraught with far-reaching consequences.

The establishment of a state oil refinery to throttle the odious oil monopoly which in the language of Governor Hoch "has robbed the producer on the one hand and the consumer on the other," establishes a precedent that may prove disastrous eventually to the people of Kansas as well as to the whole country.

The people of Kansas, the people of Nebraska, and, for that matter, the people of the whole country, have a grievance against the Beef trust, against the Grain Elevator trust and against the Coal Miners' and Coal Dealers' trusts. Meat, bread and fuel are, if anything, more of a necessity than kerosene oil. If the tyrannical Standard Oil octopus can be subdued only by a state oil refinery why should not also Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa and all the cattle raising states of the west establish state meat packing houses and state stock yards? And why should they not also establish state grain elevators, state coal yards and state coal mines?

If the state is to refine its oils, feed and slaughter its cattle and handle and ship grain, it will be equally proper for the state to establish and operate sugar refineries and cold storage houses for dairy products, fruits and poultry.

Other questions suggest themselves. Under our system of government taxes are imposed to defray the expenses incident to national and state, county and municipal government. Can the money collected for the maintenance of state government and state institutions be legitimately diverted into industrial enterprises? Can the money collected from the taxpayers of one state for the maintenance of its government be legitimately loaned to another state for an investment in a state oil refinery? The state oil refinery bill is, however, not the only measure the law-makers of Kansas have incubated that lacks thoughtful consideration.

Among the various measures now pending before the Kansas legislature for throttling the Standard Oil trust are bills to prohibit the sale of petroleum at a lower price in one part of Kansas than in another part of that state under severe penalties. Such a bill would be rational and proper as affecting public carriers who enjoy franchises and are subject to state and national regulation of their tolls and exacting equitable treatment for their patrons. It is altogether different, however, with regard to corporations that enjoy no special privilege at the hands of the state.

If the state of Kansas can prohibit the Standard Oil trust from charging less for its products in one town of Kansas than another, it may with equal propriety fix the price at which it shall sell its products or prohibit it from giving away its products, if it is so disposed. Carried to its natural sequence, the state of Kansas would have the same right to prohibit the grain elevator companies from paying more or less in one place than in another for grain, prohibit coal dealers from charging more to one person than to another person, or prohibit grocers, butchers, bakers and department stores from underselling their competitors.

The new departure in Kansas illustrates to what extremes hysterical people will go when they lose their heads over a grievance that seems to them intolerable.

INTERSTATE INSURANCE. James M. Beck, who is special counsel for the Mutual Life Insurance company of New York, favors federal supervision of insurance. He regards the business of life insurance companies between people of different states as interstate commerce, as much as sales between the states of wheat and coal, and therefore a proper matter for federal regulation and supervision.

In an address a few days ago before the Boston Life Underwriters, Mr. Beck said that the interest of 17,000,000 policy holders must not be forever subjected to the arbitrary caprice of state officials. While many of these are excellent and competent men, whose wise and conservative administration of their departments goes far to make any federal supervision unnecessary, others, with narrow and unfair ideas as to the nature of insurance, rival each other in burdening the insurance companies, and, therefore, their policy holders, with restrictions so arbitrary and despotic as to shock the natural sense of justice.

Referring to the decisions of the supreme court of the United States that the business of life insurance is not commerce, Mr. Beck expressed the belief that the court might see fit to modify or abrogate those decisions. In the lottery cases that court held that a lottery ticket was an article of commerce and Mr. Beck considered this an immense step forward in meeting the changes which steam, electricity and the printing press have wrought. He said that if congress were to pass an act regulating insurance the question would then come before the supreme court in a new form. Federal supervision, it was urged, would not necessarily supersede state supervision. The state would still retain control of its own corporations and on all transactions effected wholly within the state.

It is needless to say that in the expression of these views the counsel of the mutual company voices the sentiment of its officials, who in this respect are in accord with a large number of other life insurance men, probably a majority of them. Federal regulation and supervision of life insurance companies was recommended by President Roosevelt in his annual message and was regarded with very general favor by insurance men. It is an important question and is very likely to receive careful consideration from the next congress.

UNEASY CONGRESSMEN. There is said to be a growing feeling of uneasiness in congressional circles over the investigation which has been ordered by the president of the affairs of the Oil trust. According to a Washington dispatch to the Philadelphia Inquirer, it is believed that the investigation will bear as hard on congress as it will on the trust and that the revelations of the postoffice investigation will be suppressed by those of the oil fields. It is stated that there are members of congress who are interested in the sub-leases which have been made of the Osage lands by the Illuminating Oil company, which is understood to be controlled by the Standard. There are a great many of these minor companies and it has been reported from Kansas that members of congress are interested in them. The statement is made that if the list of stockholders in the 150 companies operating under the sub-leases of the Osage lease were to be made public, senators and representatives in half a dozen states would be found to have invested in Indian Territory Oil company. Undoubtedly if the investigation by Commissioner Garfield should show members of congress interested in the sub-leases the facts will be made public.

The circumstance that members of congress are believed to be so interested will of course have no effect on the investigation. It will be prosecuted just as earnestly and thoroughly. The postoffice investigation resulted in the indictment of two United States senators and the besmirching of some representatives. In the land fraud inquiry a senator and representative in congress and a former representative have been indicted in the single state of Oregon. In the oil investigation the administration will not be influenced to the slightest extent by the possibility that some congressmen may be involved. If there are any such the fact will be discovered and made public, as of course it should be. President Roosevelt has shown that he feels the liveliest interest in the oil investigation and no effort will be spared to make it thorough, while no one will be shielded, whatever his position. It is to be an investigation that will go to the bottom if it is possible to get there.

THE BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE ATLANTIC SEAPORTS HAVE THE REMEDY IN THEIR OWN HANDS.

It suggests that they only need to work together to draw the current eastward by low charges until that working south small dwindle to an insignificant stream, "unless the railroads in that section shall be content with their legitimate share and adopt civilized methods for securing and maintaining it."

It urges that the advantage of water communication must be availed of to the fullest extent, that elevator and storage charges must be moderated and the cost of harbor transfer, particularly at New York, made as low as practicable. It says that in time it may be that the area within which our surplus of the crude products of the earth are grown may become so situated that the outlets to the sea east of the Rocky mountains will be rather by the Gulf of Mexico than by the Atlantic coast, "but that time is not yet, and while the export of bulky products of the land is important to our general commerce the established facilities for handling it should not allow themselves to be deprived of their legitimate share."

They are now very earnestly addressing themselves to the devising of ways and means to avert a further loss of business and we will not venture to predict what the result will be, though we think it very improbable that the competition of the gulf ports with the Atlantic seaboard, now pretty firmly established, can be materially interfered with. This competition is distinctly in the interest of the western producers and they may be depended upon to do all that is practicable for maintaining it. It will have accomplished a highly important result for the producers if it shall bring about such conditions as are suggested to be necessary in order to enable the eastern ports to retain their trade.

The Western Laborer calls attention to the fact that the trades unions have a bill pending in Lincoln to require all goods offered for sale in this state that have been manufactured in whole or in part by convict labor to be so stamped for the information of the purchaser. Here is where the fruits of the new alliance between the Central Labor Union and the Ministerial union might get in its first work. Let the ministers endorse the convict labor label bill and exert their influence for its enactment.

Announcement is made that a resolution memorializing the South Dakota delegation to support President Roosevelt in his railroad rate fight will be unanimously adopted by the lower house of the South Dakota legislature, but the South Dakota legislature has yet to set the example for its delegation in congress by passing laws framed on the Roosevelt idea regarding railroad traffic within the state of South Carolina.

Some Chicago people are objecting because Judge Dunne, democratic candidate for mayor, does not retire from the bench. In the light of recent democratic precedent the practical politician will recognize that the judge is warranted in holding his job until the voters shall have spoken.

Another chance to juggle the letters of the alphabet with profit is offered by the promise of a prize to the person who suggests the most acceptable name for a new Omaha theater. Remember how easy it was for the genius who stood on his head and spelled out the word "Ak-Sar-Ben."

The denial of William Jennings Bryan of an alleged interest in the Foster Oklahoma oil land lease will be accepted as conclusive. Colonel Bryan's only interest in Standard Oil is the explosive fuel which the Rockefeller octopus generates for political agitation.

Reports regarding the misuse of funds voted by France to the victims of the Martinique earthquakes would indicate that some of the members had studied the methods by which relief funds for Nebraska grasshopper sufferers were distributed.

Since Henry Clay was unable to perfect a "Missouri compromise" which would stand the test of time people can be skeptical about reports of a new Missouri compromise until the legislators at Jefferson City deliver the goods.

Irish politics becomes intelligible to Americans when they hear complaint that people with political pulls are accused of receiving undue preference in the matter of allotting lands under the purchase act.

Get Busy. It may be that the world owes every man a living, but the world shows a disposition to keep on owing it until the man gets busy and collects the debt.

Some Help for the Oppressed. It is a little late to mention it, but attention is called to the fact that a Connecticut woman asked the legislature of that state to include "nagging" wives in the whipping post penalty.

Extreme Remedy for Extreme Cases. San Francisco Chronicle. The representative of the Standard Oil company in a speech before a legislative committee laid great stress on the "vested rights" of the corporation. If the Standard Oil people continue their insolent and aggressive attitude toward the laws and the public they may become acquainted with the theory of "divested rights." History teaches that such things are liable to happen in extreme cases.

Power of a Moral Idea. Philadelphia Record. Miss Willard is not one of the historic characters of the state of Illinois, and her statue in the capitol does not exactly carry out the idea for which Statuary hall was set apart. But the act of the Illinois legislature in selecting her for this honor proves two very interesting things: one, the increasing political influence of women, and the other is the growing sentiment of hostility to intemperance and of respect and admiration for persons who devote their lives to its prevention. The statue marks an achievement of women, and the power of a moral idea.

SERMONS BOILED DOWN.

A full head seldom swells. A crooked walk shows a crippled will. Nothing lifts one higher than love for the lowly.

Love covers sins, but does not conceal them. Croakers always advertise their own swamps. Every sorrow may be the seed of some great joy.

Love that can be measured is never worth measuring. A little smile will break up some mighty big clouds. Innocence that is advertised usually hides some iniquity.

Worship with the heart results in work with the hand. Nothing but art on the menu is an aggravation to the appetite. Lies abide forever, though they are believed by for a moment.

There is no service without a sense of the sacredness of things. It is the gold of love that makes the quartz of life worth while. He who withholds his love from men shuts out the love of God.

Some men think they are saints because they have heavy laundry bills. The man who buys a bargain lot of religion never has any to give away. The principal thing a bigot believes is that all new ideas are born of the devil. No man is meaner than he who tried to keep "the golden mean" between right and wrong.—Chicago Tribune.

SECCULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT. Chicago Inter Ocean: Intelligent American men are not less but more religious than the average man formerly. They see as never before the necessity of religion. It remains for the pulpit to get them to church by making attendance worth while.

Brooklyn Eagle: The quarrel of religious sects over the government money appropriated for the Indians ought to result in administering such funds directly. Government school money should be given neither to Christians, Buddhists nor Mohammedans, but should be used in maintaining public schools and keeping them apart from all sectarian interests and competitions.

Minneapolis Journal: The model sermon favored by Bishop Potter was given a boom when Rev. Father John L. Belford, pastor of St. Peter and Paul's Catholic church of New York, came out strongly in its favor and declared he wished one such in his parish. With many, however, the question will remain whether hell can be improved without being abolished. Still purgatory may be a good temporary substitute.

Chicago Chronicle: Dr. Francis L. Patton of Princeton Theological seminary is one of the pillars of the Presbyterian church, else it would be unsafe for him to be such a truth teller as he seems to be. Just think of it, he said recently, in an address before the Drew Theological seminary: "The preaching of the present day is a mixture of sociology and sentimentality, and the tendency is, instead of Christianizing society, to socialize Christianity." Of course, the word "sociology" is an euphemism for "socialism," and with this exclamation Dr. Patton spoke a monumental truth.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

The activity of an ancient volcano in Venezuela suggests the ramifications of the oil pipe lines of Kansas.

Chicago must look to its laurels. A New York court disposed of seventeen divorce cases in four hours.

Stately neighbors of Kansas rejoice to see refining influences at work in the "bleeding commonwealth" of the present day. The estate left by the late General Lee Wallace is valued at \$500,000. The pen still leads the sword by several thousands. With a temperature of 40 below in a North Dakota town the theft of a red hot stove does not rank as a great achievement.

The little town of Waycross, Ga., for sixteen successive years held the saloon license at \$20,000 a year and hasn't had in all that time a regulation tool.

The story that Cassie Chadwick has \$1,000,000 laid away for the present "rainy day" is not improbable. Accounts agree that Cassie has been a very thrifty woman. It is now explained that one of the canal commissioners accepted a fee "reluctantly" as a director of the Panama railway. The reluctance may have been due to the fact that the fee was but \$25.

Kansas will have to hustle if it hopes to keep in the same class with Wisconsin. Solons in the latter state propose to regulate the fact and light shoes. Later on the weather will receive attention.

Truly these are melancholy days for widows. Just as the tears of Johann Hoch's collection are drying up comes the depressing news that 18,000 widows in England were roped into a tea gift enterprise and shamelessly swindled.

An Indiana man who has been ordered to pay \$2,750 alimony is thoroughly convinced that divorce is not what it is cracked up to be. If this rate should become a court precedent, progressive polygamists would be limited to millions.

"It is a little singular," says a congressman who witnessed the proceedings of the electoral college, "that neither the constitution nor the laws provide for a certificate of election for president or vice president, or an official notification to them of their election. They simply have to take somebody's word for it."

A jury in a Chicago suburb, while considering a Sunday liquor selling case, carried the bottled evidence into the jury room, solemnly discussed it and called for more. Fearing to secure the needed article the jury promptly acquitted the culprit. Yet there are critics who assert juries do not know evidence when they sample it.

Joseph McGrath of New York paddled over the river at the ripe age of 108 years. Besides his years Uncle Joe achieved the distinction of having smoked enough tobacco to fill a barn and for eighty-five years past took two rousing snifters of whiskey a day and then some. Had his means permitted a regular increase of his daily ration of booze insurance actuaries figure that Joe would give Methuselah a warm run for the record.

SELF-CONFIDENCE.

A. J. Waterhouse in Success. This life is a race—the speed declares, and I judge that the sages are right, and we're in the jersey with our care, the horses we speed in their flight; And Fate is like a rider who bids us to go, and we dare not that that fat defy. If our horses be fast or our horses be slow, we'll place in the race we must try. Somewhere up above sits the Judge, and He knows the speed of each horse that we ride. And if we are doing our best as it goes, or lagging and hee-hawing, and if this I have noticed while watching the race and hearing its turmoil and din; The man that is likely to win the first race is the man who believes he will win.

"All ready!" the starter is calling us now, and we're in the saddle and steadfastly we've leapt to the prize of earth. Then it is the word, and away we all speed, each hoping a trophy to gain; And some fall back, lacking will to attain; And others there be who join in the fray undaunted, but they lose the power to stay. Content in the end if the Judge shall but say: "He did what he could, like a man." Ah, stern is the struggle, and many are passed, while others scarcely begin; But the man that is winner, be sure, at the last, is the man who believes he will win.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES.

Well—How in the world did you discover her?—I asked her at what age she thought a girl should marry and she promptly said 2.—Philadelphia Ledger.

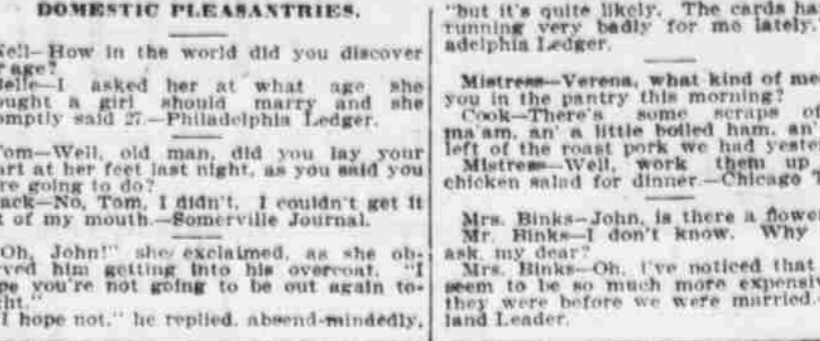
Tom—Well, old man, did you lay your heart at her feet just night, as you said you were going to do?—Jack—No, Tom, I didn't. I couldn't get it out of my mouth.—Somerville Journal.

"Oh, John!" she exclaimed, as she observed him getting into his overcoat. "I hope you're not going to be out again tonight."—I hope not," he replied, absently-mindedly.

Miss Mrs.—Verena, what kind of meat have you in the pantry this morning?—Cook—There's some scraps of beef, ma'am, an' a little boiled ham, an' what's left of the roast pork we had yesterday.

Miss Mrs.—Well, work them up into a chicken salad for dinner.—Chicago Tribune.

Mrs. Binks—John, is there a flower trust?—Mr. Binks—Don't know. Why do you ask my dear?—Mrs. Binks—Oh, I've noticed that flowers seem to be so much more expensive than they were before we were married.—Cleveland Leader.



The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States

HENRY B. HYDE, FOUNDER.

Forty-fifth Annual Statement, for the Year Ending December 31, 1904.

ASSETS table. Bonds and Mortgages: \$81,623,709.11. Real Estate in New York, including the Equitable Building: 20,906,215.78. United States, State, City and Railroad Bonds and other investments (market value over cost, \$19,991,643.00): 228,339,884.00.

INCOME table. Premium Receipts: \$62,643,836.74. Interest, Rents, etc.: 16,432,859.21. Income: \$79,076,695.95.

DISBURSEMENTS table. Death Claims: \$18,049,539.35. Endowments and deferred dividend policies: 8,425,950.14. Annuities: 980,349.94. Surrender Values: 2,931,305.36. Dividends to Policyholders: 6,001,902.51. Paid Policyholders: \$36,389,047.30.

We hereby certify to the correctness of the above statement. FRANCIS W. JACKSON, Auditor. H. R. COURSE, Assistant Auditor. A. W. MAINE, Associate Auditor.

LIABILITIES table. Assurance Fund (or Reserve): \$327,738,358.00. All other Liabilities: 5,420,393.53. Total Liabilities: \$333,158,751.53. Surplus: \$80,794,269.21.

ASSURANCE. Instalment Policies Stated at their Commuted Values. Outstanding Assurance: \$1,495,542,892.00. New Assurance, less Assurance not taken: \$222,920,037.00.

We hereby certify to the correctness of the above statement. The Reserve as per the independent valuation of the N. Y. Insurance Department, is \$329,523,126. For Superintendent's certificate see Detailed Statement. J. G. VAN CISE, Actuary. ROBT HENDERSON, Assistant Actuary. R. G. HANN, Associate Actuary.

We have examined the accounts and assets of the Society, and certify to the correctness of the foregoing statement. WM. A. WHEELLOCK, V. P. SNYDER, C. LEDYARD BLAIR, CHARLES STEWART SMITH, MARCELLUS H. DODGE, Special Committee of the Board of Directors.

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N. B.—FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS SEE DETAILED STATEMENT.

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