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E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, 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 December, 1899, was as follows:

1	24,790	17	25,685
2	25,020	18	24,882
3	25,475	19	24,760
4	24,930	20	24,300
5	25,090	21	24,450
6	27,153	22	24,310
7	24,600	23	24,620
8	25,435	24	29,970
9	24,590	25	23,700
10	25,360	26	24,380
11	24,660	27	24,200
12	24,580	28	24,310
13	25,063	29	24,490
14	25,152	30	24,230
15	24,440	31	25,460
16	24,450		

Total 774,535
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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of January, A. D. 1900.

M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal.) Notary Public.

Mr. Cowie does not remember whether he did or not, and so do all the other witnesses who get cornered.

Reports from South Africa are to the effect that the American flour which the English had in soak was not damaged in the least.

The report that Spain will at once fortify the Canary and Balearic islands affords another excellent illustration of the adage about locking the stable door after the horse is stolen.

What luck! The Omaha district is the only one out of 300 and more of the census districts which is succeeding in getting any advertising out of the appointment of its supervisor.

The taxpayers of all classes and of all parties will heartily second the effort of the reorganized school board to thoroughly ventilate the operations of the late school board combination.

General Lord Methuen's mind is said to be unbalanced. That is a charitable view to take of his wild boast that he had fought the bloodiest battle of the century with a handful of British troops.

Secretary Root says he will not be a candidate for the vice presidency. How cruel of him to blast the rising hopes of the newspaper punsters who had already begun to exercise their talents on his name.

Omaha men who go up to Sioux City to get robbed might better patronize home industry. Plenty of opportunities present in this city to be relieved of any surplus money they may have in a legitimate way.

Des Moines is moving to secure the location of a military post in the vicinity of that city. But there is no need of alarm over any prospective removal of the troops from Fort Crook or any of the other Nebraska forts for that matter.

The evidence in the Clark senatorial investigation indicates that he is certainly entitled to his seat. Like Colonel Maverick Brander, the legislative votes honestly belonged to him because he bought them and paid the market price in Montana.

Since Tillman has become more quiet Pettigrew appears to think it his duty to keep the senate in a turmoil. In the matter of making charges he is fully as reckless as the South Carolinian, but is not possessed with a tithe of the ginger of the pitchfork statesman.

Last year the Globe Light and Heat company was willing to contract for gasoline street lamps at $13 per lamp; this year it has raised the price to $18, or an increase of nearly 40 per cent. With no corresponding increase in the price of gasoline the inference is that the bid has been raised simply because there is no competition.

The pioneers of Nebraska are performing a valuable service to the state in compiling the early history of the commonwealth. It will not be many years before the men who made this history will have either passed away or become incapacitated by advancing years from performing this work. They laid the foundation of the state broad and deep and they can present the record of their handiwork with justifiable pride.

Mr. Cowie's attorneys intimate very broadly that they will turn the searchlight of publicity upon the purchase of the school sites in case their client is too hard pressed. By all means turn on the searchlight. The public has all along suspected that these purchases were engineered for the benefit of members of the combine, and if Mr. Cowie knows anything that will confirm this suspicion and expose the jobbers he will render the public a valuable service.

A TRANSPARENT GAME.

More than two years ago the State Board of Transportation issued an order prohibiting Nebraska railroads from changing the live stock schedule from carload rates to pound rates. This order was ignored by the railroads, as was expected by the board, and remained as much of a dead letter as the no-treat law. The whole thing was horse play in the face of a political campaign in which the do-nothing board sought to allay the rising resentment of the rank and file of the Nebraska fusionists of its flagrant disregard of party pledges.

Now that we are in front of another campaign the same grandstand play is to be repeated in a new form. Attorney General Smyth has filed a complaint against the Union Pacific railroad for refusing to comply with the old buncombe order and demands the enforcement of the full penalty of $5,000 upon that corporation. Inasmuch as the Union Pacific claims to be a foreign corporation, the case will probably be transferred to the federal courts and put into dry dock for a year or two.

Why Attorney General Smyth had to wait two years before he could discover that the roads were violating the order of the state board can be explained only on the theory that he was either overworked or indisposed to tackle the railroads while enjoying their favors. The theory of overwork, however, is hardly tenable in view of the fact that he has had ample time for political speechmaking, banquets and private law business. The most charitable view is that he has purposely put off this bout with the railroad until the end of his own term of office is in sight and when he expects to enter the race as a candidate for congress. Why the valiant anti-monopoly reformer should pick out for his first onslaught the Union Pacific, which he patronizes so seldom, instead of the Burlington, whose annual he uses between Omaha and Lincoln nearly every other day, may easily be guessed.

The whole game is too transparent to deceive anybody who does not want to be fooled. There is about as much sincerity in the effort of Attorney General Smyth to bring the railroads to time as there is in the bombastic fulminations against the railroads by the defuncto candidate for U. S. S., who pounds the hew-gag and sounds the tom-tom about railroad extortion while he keeps in closest touch with the corporate powers.

THE QUESTION OF MEDIATION.

The appeals which it is proposed by the friends of peace abroad to make to President McKinley in behalf of mediation in South Africa will be without effect, because this government could not, with propriety, offer mediation when neither of the belligerents desires it and besides to do so would be a departure from the historical policy of the United States. Were both parties to the war to ask the United States to use its good offices in the interest of peace the request would doubtless be complied with, but for this country to offer to mediate without being asked to do so by the belligerents would certainly be regarded by them and perhaps by the rest of the world as an impertinent interference which we could not justify on humanitarian grounds.

It is not surprising that foreigners, who know little of our government and of its long-established policy, should urge it to intervene in the South African war, but it is astonishing that there are intelligent Americans who believe it to be the duty of this government to tender its good offices, unasked, for bringing about a settlement of the conflict. This country will always be found ready to act as a peacemaker under proper circumstances, but it is not called upon to thrust itself on those who do not ask or desire its good offices.

TREASURY ADMINISTRATION.

Owing to the peculiar relations of the national treasury to the money market there are many difficulties connected with its administration. Ex-President Harrison is credited with the remark that an ideal condition would be one in which the receipts and expenses of the government balanced, but perhaps such a condition is impracticable. At all events it is not likely soon to be attained and the question is as to what is best to be done under existing conditions.

Secretary Gage says that "his principle of action has been to so manage the receipts and expenditures as to produce the least disturbance in that part of the money supply which must be at the service of commercial and industrial use." Thus the secretary of the treasury is required to give attention all the time to the condition of the money market, a duty imposed upon the head of the financial department of no other nation. The intimate relation that has been established between the treasury and the financial affairs of the public renders necessary prompt action on the part of the secretary whenever an exigency arises in the money market, such as has recently been experienced, calling for assistance from the treasury. When monetary stringency comes and panic threatens or develops, he cannot pause to inquire into causes, but must at once apply to the disturbance such treatment as the law authorizes. The trouble may arise entirely from excessive speculation, as in the recent case, yet the secretary of the treasury is bound to safeguard, if possible, the legitimate business interests from the dangers of such a situation.

The authority now possessed by the secretary of the treasury, the exercise of which by Mr. Gage has caused so much criticism, is thought by some to be a greater power than should be lodged in the hands of one man. Mr. Windom, when secretary of the treasury, said of it: "It involves the exercise of a most dangerous power by the secretary of the treasury, whereby he may, if so disposed, expand or contract the currency at will and in the interest of certain favorites whom he may select." The power has never been thus abused, but none the less it seems expedient to modify it. Among the suggestions brought out by the discussion of the matter one is that a law be passed requiring that treasury receipts in excess of current expenses be deposited in government depositories weekly, the law to prescribe the amount and kind of security to be given for such deposits. This would relieve the secretary of the treasury of all discretion and responsibility in the matter. The dependence of the money market upon the treasury or the treasury upon the banks would cease. Whatever money the government did not require for its current expenses would become available for the uses of the people, instead of accumulating and lying idle in the treasury.

Referring to this subject the Philadelphia Record says that "if there should be at the command of the government an adequate medium by which the enormous amounts of currency drawn from business in taxes could be restored to circulation as speedily as possible there would be small opportunity for abuses and as little for the tongues of the scandal mongers." It is not improbable that the discussion raised by the action of Secretary Gage may result in some such legislation as suggested.

THREE MONTHS OF WAR.

Three months ago today the South African republic declared war against Great Britain and hostilities began on the following day. In that period British military prestige has suffered severely, she has lost thousands of brave men and today an army three or four times as large as was thought at the beginning of the war would be required is held at bay by the Boers, with no apparent prospect of an early improvement in the British situation. In all this time Great Britain has not secured a single advantage. As a London paper says, with a huge army distributed over the country it is still powerless to relieve three garrisons from investment and large portions of both British colonies are in the hands of the enemy. "Can any one fail to admit," asks that paper, "that this is evidence of a grave miscalculation of forces and facts?" History hardly affords a parallel to the British experience in South Africa and the English press is none too severe in its criticism of those who are responsible for it.

The British public is hopeful of an early change for the better, now that Generals Roberts and Kitchener have arrived at Capetown. There is great confidence in the ability of these commanders, who are expected to at once change the character of the campaign, but the impatience that is said to prevail in England may not be relieved for some time and in the meanwhile it is quite probable that the British will suffer further reverses, intensifying the anxiety and apprehension in England and increasing the difficulties which are said to exist inside the British lines.

It is unsafe to prophesy, but it is by no means unlikely that there are severer experiences ahead for the British forces in South Africa than they have yet had, hard and humiliating as these have been.

Councilman Mount declares that the council does not propose to complicate the water works bond proposition with any side issues. By this he doubtless means that the movement for municipal ownership is to be confined exclusively to the water works purchase. The advocates of municipal ownership will not be satisfied with the exclusion of all other public necessities. They favor the ownership and operation of electric light plants, gas works and eventually of the telephone system. It would take a comparatively moderate investment to start out with electric lighting, and for that matter gasoline lighting and power as well. The water works bond proposition would not necessarily be complicated or endangered by the submission of a proposition to authorize the council to issue a limited amount of bonds for the acquisition and operation of a lighting power plant.

It has always been a mystery why people who have no fixed income and no personal interest in the management of our public schools should scramble for places on the Board of Education when no salary is attached to the position and no other promise of reward held out than a grateful appreciation of services faithfully rendered. The investigation now in progress may throw some light upon the incentive that impels such men to seek positions that have no pay attached to them.

The story of an offensive and defensive alliance between this country and England has been revived again. In the first place all treaties to be effective must be ratified by the senate, so no such thing has ever happened. In the second place the president has not the power to declare war, which would enable him to support England, as the story is told. Opponents of the administration should confine themselves to statements which are plausible.

The absurd story that Senator Thurston and President McKinley have had a falling out over the appointment of the census supervisor for this district comes through a channel that is absolutely untrustworthy. The relations between the president and Senator Thurston have been most amicable, and, while the contention over the census supervisorship may have reached a white heat at the capitol, it has not reached the White House.

City Attorney Connell assures the South Side Improvement club that all pending litigation relating to the opening of Twenty-fourth street will be cleared away before the railroads get ready to build the Twenty-fourth street viaduct. Mr. Connell has taken no risk in making that prediction. It will take some time before the railroads get ready.

A bill has been introduced in the Iowa state senate prohibiting the manufacture of pearl buttons in the state penitentiaries. The bill promises to bring out a warm discussion on convict labor in all its forms, and the outcome will be watched with interest by labor organizations in every section of the country. The pearl button industry which flourished in Omaha for a number of years was transferred to the Nebraska penitentiary last summer and is said to give employment to more than fifty convicts. In the meantime, however, the workmen who were employed at fair wages in Omaha in manufacturing pearl buttons have been compelled to look for work elsewhere, as they cannot possibly compete by co-operative industry with convict-made goods.

Chicago is worrying over the discovery of several smallpox cases in the midst of its crowded population, so we may be on the lookout for a few mild outbreaks in several sections of the country. With the present state of medical science and effective quarantining the danger of smallpox epidemics is practically a thing of the past.

It is very easy to put up a straw man and knock him down again. The "naturalized Englishman" who has occupied so many columns in the local popocratic organ has all the appearance of a man of straw who has been set up in the middle of the cabbage patch for the purpose of frightening away the rabbits.

The democrats in the Iowa legislature have decided to vote for Fred White for senator. There is not a ghost of a show of his election, but White is used to defeat. Some time he may run for an office and be elected and the experience will be so novel that he will not know what to do.

Historical Contrast.
Kansas City Journal.

It is true that Thomas Jefferson rode to the White House, but not astride of either an ostrich or a silver hobby.

Depends on the Point of View.
Chicago Record.

Senator Beveridge says the Filipinos are utterly incapable of self-government. Possibly the Filipinos think the same of the Americans. But that is immaterial.

Plutocracy Gets in Its Work.
Washington Post.

The Hon. Cato Sells of Iowa was run down by an automobile while on his way to the last Bryan banquet. How long are these cursed implements of plutocracy to be permitted to mangle the plain people?

A Waste of Common Sense.
Cleveland Plain Dealer (dem.)

The duty of the democratic national convention is to frame a platform in accord with the cardinal principles of historic democracy, but adapted to the conditions of the time—not the conditions of 1876, or of 1896, but those of 1900—and then to select candidates in accord with that platform.

Knows How to Keep a Secret.
San Francisco Call.

From the tone of Bryan's speech at the Jackson day banquet in Chicago it appears he is willing to suggest a plain and absolute remedy for the evils caused by trusts, provided he be elected to the presidency, but he is not willing to say what it is beforehand; so it will be seen the boy orator has some discretion after all and knows how to keep his mouth shut on at least one subject.

Generosity of Republics.
Philadelphia Record.

The expansion of the Lawton fund to $85,000, with fair assurance of a considerable further increase, conveys ample and gratifying evidence that the greatest of republics is not ungrateful. From a public point of view the swift creation of this fund must be regarded as a memorable illustration of American national pride, patriotism and generosity. Such deeds inspire as well as reward heroism.

Activity in Political Menageries.
New York Sun.

Colonel Bryan's successful advertising by means of ostriches, panthers and Mexican lions during his Texas engagement has not been lost upon another gifted performer. The Hon. Bob Taylor, some time governor of Tennessee and still its sweetest fiddler-orator, has had himself chased into a tree by a Long Star razor-back hog and only rescued himself by singing the enemy to sleep. This is a great year for the menagerie business.

Meat Production and Prices.
Indianapolis Journal.

The real cause of the increased price of meats is that the country has now 17,000,000 more meat eaters than it had ten years ago, while the number of cattle has fallen off 11,000,000 during that period. According to the figures of the Bureau of Animal Industry we had 15,000,000 more hogs in 1890 than now, while the population has increased from 62,500,000 to nearly 79,000,000. A similar falling off is reported in the number of sheep. Under these conditions there is no prospect that the prices of meat will return to a lower level.

Montana Code of Ethics.
Chicago Chronicle.

Casuistry worthy of the schoolmen develops at Washington in the bribery investigation affecting the seat of Hon. W. A. Clark of Montana. "A lie," declares one witness, who probably stands for the Montana code of ethics, "is when you state a falsehood to a man who has a right to know the truth; if he has no right to the truth it is not a lie." A distinction indeed, and one not unworthy of Kaunitz, who, being asked to defend lying in diplomacy, said: "There is no such thing as lying in diplomacy. A lie undetected is not a lie. The man caught in a falsehood is not a diplomat." It will be observed that there is some resemblance between the Montana and the Austrian idea of diplomacy.

Will Sugar Be Our King Crop?
Leslie's Weekly.

The world moves and its motion is constant and surprising. Any one who would have predicted a few years ago that the center of the sugar-producing region would shortly shift from the tropical to the temperate zone would have been laughed at. But this is precisely what has happened toward the close of the nineteenth century. Two-thirds of the world's sugar crop is now produced from beets raised in the temperate zones of Germany, Austria, France and the United States. Twenty years ago the beet sugar crop in the world was one-fifth of the entire sugar production. The last year the cane sugar crop was one-third of the beet sugar product. While the production of cane sugar has scarcely doubled during the twenty years, sugar from beets has more than quintupled. Meanwhile the price of sugar has fallen more than half. It is easy to foresee the time when the western farmer may be the greatest producer of sugar in the world. Then, sugar, instead of cotton or corn, may be the king of American crops.

Big Oil Deal in Ohio.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 11.—A special from Bowling Green, O., says: J. G. Hickok and M. B. Chidester of this city have closed a deal for the entire oil interests of the Palmer Oil company. The price to be paid is $500,000. The purchase includes 540 acres in fee in Wood county and leases on 2,225 acres in Wood and Hancock counties. There are 155 producing wells on the property, with a monthly production of 15,600 barrels.

PERSONAL POINTS.

The real power of a court of injunction will not be determined until St. Louis sends one against the Chicago river.

A New York jury has decided that it is worth $5,000 to teach a New York woman how to behave in polite society.

Twenty colleges, recently canvassed, "desire" for the coming year about $27,000,000 in gifts and "expect" about $6,500,000. That is not a large ratio of desire to expectation as the world goes.

Another young American who seems to have expatriated and denationalized himself is Alan Arthur, son of the late President Arthur, who finds that his income goes farther abroad than in this country.

The "absent-minded beggar" is to be reinforced by a "corps or gentlemen" recruited among those who are "accustomed to shoot big game in uncivilized countries." But the Boer fire, like love, "levels all ranks."

Justice Brewer of the supreme court takes a crack at the end of the century discussion by deciding in favor of December 31, 1900. This reduces the minority to H. H. Kohlsaat of Chicago and K. Wilhelm of Berlin.

Some one quoted to Senator Hanna the other day Thackeray's remark that mankind was divided into the bores and the bored. "True," said the senator, "and the former live longer. They kill off their victims very rapidly."

Admiral Dewey recently said to a Washington acquaintance: "I don't see what has awakened this strange love of buttons in the average American. Why, I've been asked for buttons from my uniform worn at Manila enough times to equip a squadron with them."

Mayor Phelan of San Francisco, being asked by the public library trustees if he would rent quarters in a building owned by him for a branch of the public library, replied that he would give the city a branch library building. He will build it as soon as he can secure a suitable site.

When some one wished Senator Hoar a "Happy New Year," he replied that he was not apt to have many more years of life, that he was growing old now and that while he had hoped his last days would be his quietest and happiest, the war in the Philippines weighed upon him so heavily that he could not sleep at night.

ENGLAND IN WAR.

Some Remarks on "The Splendid Example of Heroic Self-Control."
New York Sun.

That England should feel a sense of humiliation because of the defeats of its armies in South Africa by a relatively puny foe is explainable. Those armies are made up of its best regular troops, yet they have all and almost uniformly been beaten by the Boer farmer volunteers and a great part of them are now prisoners in the hands of their numerically feeble enemy. When, however, we read in London newspapers of the splendid example of heroic self-control afforded by the English people in this emergency and under this demonstration so painful to them we cannot see the ground for such self-celebration.

What else is there for England to do except submit to its punishment? Who has expected that the English people would cry out like whipped children and in their rage kick vainly against accomplished facts; lie down in the dust and go into hysterics because they were not able to do what they had no reason to expect they could accomplish? Other nations have been defeated in their military undertakings. What example does history afford of any great people failing in self-control in the face of far heavier disasters? As compared with France at the hands of Germany, Russia at the hands of the allies, this country in the terrible four years of the civil war and Spain in its late war with us, England has only begun to feel the smart of war. All told, it has not lost in killed and wounded in South Africa as many as have fallen in many a single engagement in battles of the last half century, even where they were of third-rate consequence only, for no action approaching the measure of a great battle has yet been fought in South Africa. Relatively, the casualties have been few; there has not been a regular stand-up fight, persisted in to the end of possible endurance, throughout the three months' South African campaign. The sorrows and sufferings of war so far inflicted on England have been trifling as compared with those borne by all other nations of first-class position in the modern world. The engagements in South Africa have been skirmishes rather than battles.

Shall England, then, be credited with supreme patience in braving the pain of terrible war, when it has as yet received a few scratches only? Is a people dominating a quarter of the population of the globe deserving of the reputation of notably heroic fortitude because it has been able to maintain some degree of its composure in a war of three months' reverses against two numerically petty republics? Is the self-control which restrains it from despair unexampled?

How, too, about the fortitude and the self-control of the Boers in their desperate struggle against the British empire, supposedly the most powerful and the most indomitable since Rome ruled the world?

BILLION-DOLLAR COUNTRY.

Enormous Capital Invested in the Farming Industry.
Boston Globe.

It will surprise a great many people to be told that fully $16,000,000,000 of capital is invested in the farming industry of our country. Yet such is the fact, according to Prof. John F. Crowell of New York, who testified before the industrial commission the other day. He called attention also to census figures which show, according to the latest accounting, that in the varied fields of agriculture nearly 5,000,000 workers are employed.

Some reasons why "the farms are left" by the young are indicated in Prof. Crowell's interesting statement to the industrial commission. Thus, while in manufacturing the product per capita is $803, and in mining $740, in farming it was only $290. It is true that when wear and tear and worry are taken into the account the "man on the farm" who has no mortgage to fret him gets a vast deal more out of life than some of his fellow citizens, the annual net product of whose work in cold cash is considerably larger than his own.

What Prof. Crowell said as to the need of a proper distributing system of our agricultural products, effective though through the markets of Europe, as well as his emphatic remarks regarding over-taxation of the farmer, may well give the industrial commission food for serious thought. It is the farmer who is the mainstay of us all.

Goebel to Wed Miss Blackburn.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 11.—A Lexington, Ky., special says: "Senator William V. Goebel, who is contesting the seat of Governor W. S. Taylor, it was stated today, is engaged to be married to Miss Corinne Blackburn, the only single daughter of United States Senator J. C. S. Blackburn. It is said the event is to be immediately after Mr. Goebel's contest is decided at Frankfort.

Fight Duty on Electric Power.

BUFFALO, Jan. 11.—At a meeting held under the auspices of the Merchants' exchange a resolution was adopted committing the organization to opposition by counsel before the Treasury department to the levying of a duty upon electricity brought to the United States across the Niagara river.

Indian Agent is Appointed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The president today sent these nominations to the senate: Andrew F. Caldwell, agent for the Indians of the Fort Hall agency, Idaho; Sergeant Major O. C. Nichols, to be a second lieutenant, Thirty-fourth volunteer infantry.

HERE AND THERE.

"The young Demosthenes from Indiana," as some admirers call Senator Beveridge, recalled memories of Roscoe Conkling in the senate by his speech on the Philippine question last Tuesday. Not since the days of the Utica giant has a written speech been delivered in that body without reference to manuscript or to notes. Senator Beveridge accomplished the rare feat of memory without apparent effort or a serious break. His speech filled seven columns of small type. Washington correspondents who occupied seats in the gallery and followed the orator, having advance copies of the speech, declare that he did not have a note to guide him, yet every paragraph followed in proper sequence and almost without the change of a single word. The memorizing of a prepared address and its delivery without notes is not in itself an uncommon feat. The difficulty with most noted speakers is to stick closely to their written words. In the excitement of delivery ideas are clothed in garb different from that employed in the cool hours of preparation. Therein lies the secret of a well-controlled memory.

On three occasions in this city, within the writer's experience, three Omaha speakers displayed power of memory equal to that of Senator Beveridge. Over twenty years ago, Hon. John Rush delivered an address at a St. Patrick's day celebration in what was then Shoaf's hall. The address was prepared in advance and required about one hour in delivery. One of the newspaper men present had the manuscript and followed the speaker with the written words. Although it contained many historical quotations and statistics, it was delivered without material alteration or addition, and without notes.

M. V. Gannon, formerly of Omaha, displayed equally remarkable powers of memory in a public address in the old Boyd opera house, the occasion being the birthday anniversary of the poet, Thomas Moore. The address was filled with copious extracts from the writings of the famous poet, several entire poems being recited, besides a score of verses from "Lalla Rookh." The address was prepared in advance, and was nearly as long as that of Senator Beveridge. It was delivered without a note for guidance, and with the vigor and warmth characteristic of the Irish orator, yet the speaker did not alter or amend a single sentence of his written speech.

Another Omaha man similarly gifted is Henry Estabrook. Four and a half years ago he delivered a political speech in the Coliseum to an audience that packed that huge auditorium. The speech was prepared in advance and filled eight columns of The Bee. It was a remarkable speech, certainly one of the best ever delivered by that brilliant son of Nebraska. Mr. Estabrook did not use his manuscript or a note to guide him, yet he did not vary a sentence nor alter the sequence of his argument. There was no halting or hesitation. His words as written came forth with the ease, grace and eloquence of the accomplished orator.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

England Adroitly Dodging the Issues Raised by the United States.
Baltimore American.

In the effort to defend England's seizure of American goods the question of what is contraband of war is adroitly brought to the front and the real points at issue obscured. It is not the fault of the United States that England has gone to war with two little republics, whose boundaries open on a neutral state. That is the fault of England. If she did not like the situation she should have taken steps to better it, either by purchasing Delagoa bay or by some arrangement with Portugal. England has no right to blockade Delagoa bay. She has just as much right to blockade the port of New York or Bremen or Cherbourg, or any other neutral port in the world. If contraband goods are furnished the Boers from Portuguese territory, that is a matter for England to settle with Portugal and not with the United States or Germany.

In other words, the talk about contraband goods is outside of the question and can only be brought in by implication or for the purpose of obscuring the issue. It is quite time that Great Britain was taught that she is amenable to international law as the other powers of the earth; that when principles are once established she is not excepted from their operation and that if she undertakes a war under certain limitations she has not the authority or power to compel the rest of the world to help her to remove these limitations. Of course, the case of the United States is stronger than that of Germany, so far as the question of contraband goods can enter into it, because the property of Americans which has been seized is not contraband and to concede that it is contraband would be to make every known article of commerce contraband.

The seizures are not only outrages upon the rights and dignity of the United States, but there is a serious commercial side to them of the gravest importance to the future trade of the country. The trade of the United States with Delagoa bay is only a few millions of dollars and has probably been destroyed by these seizures; but the trade of the United States in breadstuffs with the rest of the world amounts to nearly $500,000,000, or, to be exact, it was last year $488,406,042. If this commerce is to be seized whenever the European nations go to war with each other—and that is the meaning of the seizures made the other day—what have American farmers to look forward to? The injustice is made peculiarly aggravating when it is remembered that Great Britain purchased in this country everything she wanted for her armies in South Africa and shipped it through American ports direct to Cape Colony, among the items being one of 25,000 mules. She should not be allowed to defy international law and destroy American commerce in her efforts to prevent the Boers from getting their little share. If she can lawfully cut off their supplies that is all right; but she should not be permitted to make a foot ball of American commerce.

GROWTH AND NOBODY HURT.

Effect of Free Trade with "Our Insular Possessions."
Minneapolis Journal (rep.)

When Daniel Webster, in 1846, protested against spending a cent by the government to develop the country west of the Mississippi, he had no idea of the persistent growth of this nation in population and wealth. We then had a population of a little over 23,000,000. Today we number not less than 75,000,000 and we are still growing. The middle west population increased from 1880 to 1900, 28.78 per cent; the middle south increased 23.02 per cent; the western states proper increased 71.27 per cent in the same period. Herein we have the explanation of the development of the agricultural and industrial strength of the interior. New England is contributory to the manufactured output. The west also shares, for as far back as 1890 the census reports the manufactured products of Illinois at $339,621,191, as compared with the Massachusetts valuation of $414,960,969. Chicago has become the second manufacturing city in the country. The south, from being a cipher in manufacturing industries at the close of the war, in the coal, iron and steel and cotton growing and cotton manufacturing, has developed hundreds of millions of substantial value.

It is evident that people who profess to be afraid that the opening of the states to sugar and tobacco, hemp and fruits grown in Puerto Rico and the Philippines will annihilate the producers of these articles in the states, are oblivious of the facts stated as to the growth of population and the extent of manufacturing and agricultural industries westward and southward. New England has not been "ruined" by the big development of manufacturing in the west and south. The development of the oil industry in the west and notably in California in late years has not "ruined" the eastern oil producers. The west even sells manufactured products to the east. Is anybody ruined by the fact? With a population of 75,000,000 and growing, our sugar producers are not able to supply the home demand by a million tons. Puerto Rico has not been able to produce more than 50,000 tons of sugar. Its coffee product would not hurt anybody, for we do not raise coffee. The banana crop is consumed on the island. The orange crop is consumed at home. Puerto Rico tobacco would not compete with our domestic tobacco, which is used chiefly for binders, while the Puerto Rico product is chiefly used for fillers. Where is the menace of Puerto Rico products to our industries? As for hemp, a hemp ring has put up the price to such a high figure that the opening of the southern hemp ports of the Philippines for the benefit of our hemp consumers will be a positive advantage, and the Philippine sugar will come in the future to aid in supplying our domestic market. The addition of Philippine sugar will have no more injurious effect upon the home sugar demand and production than has the manufacture of agricultural implements in Minnesota wrought upon the same kind of works in New York state or Ohio. This is a rapidly growing country. The home and export demand for all the products mentioned is so enormous that territory must constantly be developed to supply it. The objection to Puerto Rican or Philippine imports under our trade system is based on the hypothesis, apparently, that this country is in a stagnant condition.

FLASHES OF FUN.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "But his trouser knees are so big and baggy."
"So is his bank account."

Chicago Times-Herald: "Why are you so sure he is in love with you?"
"He remained thirty minutes on his knees on the ice with his gloves off putting on a pair of skates that other men have put on for me in less than three minutes."

Philadelphia Press: "My proudest boast," declared the lecturer, who expected his statement to be greeted with cheers, "is that I was one of the men behind the guns!"
"How many miles behind?" piped a voice from the gallery.

Indianapolis Journal: Visitor — Harry, have you tried all the remedies kind friends prescribed for your malady?
Invalid—Good gracious, no! If I had I'd have been dead and buried five years ago.

New York Press: She—I had a kiss stolen from me yesterday.
He—No wonder.
She—Why?
He—You shouldn't purse your lips.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Yes, he claimed his wife pinched him severely whenever she asked him for money."
"Well, he needn't flatter himself that he is the only man who has been pinched for money."

Chicago Tribune: "What is your age, madam?" asked the judge of a witness.
"Your honor," answered the lady, "that is something I will leave to your kind indulgence."

Washington Star: "I noticed," said Senator Sorghum, "that you said I was in a fair way to be elected."
"Wasn't that correct?"
"Oh, it'll do very well for popular purposes, although there is no use of any of us people on the inside trying to hug delusions. I'm in a way to be elected all right. But I dunno as it'll be so very fair."

"ABER-NIT."

Josh Wink in Baltimore American.

(A rag-time soliloquy by a Boer. The dialect is within ten thousand miles of the real thing.)

Dey saidt I vas
A numpskull.
Dey made fun of mein hat.
Saidt I
Vos scaret of vater,
Undt pleifed der vorldt
Vos flat.
Dey saidt dot I vouldt run
Some,
For fear deir shells
Vouldt hit;
Undt I vouldt soon
Surrender.
Vell, I
Dit—
Aber-nit!
Dey saidt:
"Ve'll take Pretoria,
Undt den ve'll
Nab Oom Paul,
Undt put him in
Der lock-up,
Tiedt to a chain undt pall."
Dey saidt
Dey'd make us
Sorry
Dot ve dit vot
Ve dit—
Dey'd make us lose
Some gelt-mines.
Undt dey
Dit—
Aber-nit!
Dey say
Dey make some charches,
Undt r-r-run us
Off der vorldt,
Undt make us sorry dot ve
Dot Lion's
Tail uncurledt.
But den,
In efery diddy
Dose Priddish chenruls
Sit,
Undt say
Dey'll soon
Surround us, undt
Dey vill—
Aber-nit!

"Rubber."

This is the proper season to "Rubber."

You can "Rubber" around our Suit tables.

You can "Rubber" around our Overcoat Tables.

You can "Rubber" around our Ulster tables.

You can "Rubber" around our Pants tables.

And you will find bargains on any of them—and especially at this time of the year.

Where there is only one or two of a kind—there is sure to be a big cut in the price to close them out.

There are some at ⅓ and some at ½ price.

But come in and Rubber before you make any purchase pertaining to Men's Apparel.

Browning, King & Co.
88 Wilcox Manager