

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: I, Charles C. Rosewater, general manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, say that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1907, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation type and number. Rows include Total, Unsold and returned copies, Net Total, Daily average, and circulation for various months.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN: Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

A local minister is going to preach on "The Need of the Hour," Christmas shoppers know what it is.

Only seven days more for Christmas shopping, and among them the shortest day in the year. This means "Hustle."

The democrats will start their 1908 campaign in the mountains, but will doubtless end it in the woods, as usual.

Belgium has what is known as the socialist left party. In this country the democratic party serves as the left party.

Senator Foraker is beginning to realize that his presidential boom is a clearing house certificate instead of the real goods.

St. Louis reports 300 saloons less than last year. If that keeps up St. Louis will soon have no more than eight saloons to the block.

General Stoessel might help his case by summoning General Kuroki, who knows a good deal about the causes of the fall of Port Arthur.

Pittsburg is the best advertised city in the country," says the Dispatch of that city. Pittsburg is welcome to the kind of advertising it has been receiving.

Up to date, Secretary Cortelyou has withheld his endorsement of the president's recommendation for widest publicity in the matter of campaign contributions.

A dispatch from Goldfield says, "General Funston fears trouble." The author of that telegram does not know Funston. He may expect trouble but never fears it.

Some 300 copies of the president's message have been placed on the battlefields enroute to the Pacific. The jackies will have time to read it if the speed pace is kept low.

The more the matter is discussed the more apparent it is that the action taken by the Nebraska republican platform makers last fall is considered as expressive of the opinion of the state.

It is announced that the Pennsylvania democrats will favor the nomination of Judge Gray of Delaware. Pennsylvania democrats cut almost as much figure in results as Texas republicans.

A Kansas City paper boasts that the people in that city have bigger feet, bigger hands, broader shoulders and bigger hearts than on any other part of the earth. And bigger heads?

Plans should be made to induce the delegates to stop in Omaha on their way to the democratic convention at Denver. There will be neither pleasure nor profit in having them stop on the return trip.

Secretary Cortelyou cannot remain in the cabinet and also in the presidential race," says the Philadelphia North American. He will have to get into the presidential race before he can remain in it.

"The democrats will find Denver a delightful place to meet," says Colonel Bryan. It is well, perhaps, that the meetings should be held in a delightful place, as the pleasure will all come at the opening of the campaign. Nothing but disaster can be expected at the finish.

CASHIERS' CERTIFICATES AND POLITICS.

Under the guise of disinterested patriotism, Senator Tillman of South Carolina, supported by Senator Culbreth of Texas, the new leader of the democratic minority in the senate, has started an inquiry which is to serve as the basis of a political attack on the whole republican administration, in the hope of manufacturing capital which may be used to advantage in the coming national campaign.

The democratic movers of the resolution of inquiry have doubtless been a little disconcerted by the fact that the republicans of the senate committee on finance have supported the resolution instead of opposing it. This robs the document of its partisan features, to a large degree, and makes it one of general concern.

The result of the inquiry may be forecasted without much difficulty. Ample justification exists for the issue of the Panama canal bonds. As to the matter of "certificates of indebtedness," it will be shown that legal authority for their issue existed and that the secretary of the treasury authorized their issue, in view of the discretionary power vested in him.

The federal government had no part or concern in the issue of clearing house certificates and no power to prevent it. The problem was one handed by the national banks in different communities and in different ways.

Now that the use of these certificates and cashiers' checks has been discontinued, it may be stated that they were given a use in 1907 never contemplated when they were first designed to meet a financial emergency in 1860.

The original purpose of the issue was to serve as substitutes for cash in the settlement of daily balances between banks and the public had no concern or interest in them. They have been used for like emergencies since that date, but not until this year have they been used as a substitute for currency among the people.

That these certificates are not money or substitutes therefor for circulation except between banks is generally conceded and the only purpose of the inquiry by the senate committee can be to determine whether such issues are subject to the federal tax of 10 per cent on issues of other than bond secured circulation.

Whatever the finding of the senate committee, it will be difficult to manufacture political capital out of the matter. It will serve only to emphasize the need of reform legislation in currency matters, a need generally recognized, although there is little promise of an agreement as to the method by which it shall be accomplished.

TRUST COMPANIES AND BANKS.

Chairman Fowler of the house committee on banking and currency is only adding complications to an already muddled condition when he urges the enlargement of the powers of the national banks of the nation in order to enable them to compete with the trust companies which have in late years apparently appropriated to themselves many of the functions of the national banks, without being subject to the federal restrictions exercised over the banks.

Mr. Fowler suggests that a law be passed giving the national banks the right of exercising all the powers of executors, administrators, guardians and trustees powers that now are extended to trust companies. He contends that in no other way can the national banks meet the competition of the trust companies, which have grown up and are now absorbing much of the business which he insists should belong to the banks.

In support of his contention, he cites these figures of deposits, as the best measure of business magnitude, showing how the trust companies have encroached upon the business of the national banks:

Table titled NATIONAL BANKS. Columns: Year and Deposits. Rows for 1890, 1900, 1907.

Table titled TRUST COMPANIES. Columns: Year and Deposits. Rows for 1890, 1900, 1907.

Table titled STATE BANKS. Columns: Year and Deposits. Rows for 1890, 1900, 1907.

While these figures show that the trust companies have succeeded in increasing their deposits at a greater rate than the national banks, the fact remains that Mr. Fowler's proposition is designed to change the entire scope and purpose of the national banks.

The national bank, under the wise provision of the national bank act, is a commercial institution pure and simple, designed to cater to the needs of the commercial community. It has no power to add fiduciary functions to its business, and such addition would but serve to cripple its relations to the business community.

The Fowler plan would require an entirely new law for the government and operation of national banks, for trust and savings business belong to an entirely different category from the business legitimately devolved upon national banks.

Trust and savings funds cannot be handled or loaned as are the resources of national banks and the entire question of reserves and guarantees would have to be remodeled to meet the Fowler plan.

Mr. Fowler is clearly in error in his effort to remedy a financial evil. The need is not for extension of trust powers to national banks, but for legislation regulating the trust companies to the end that they may be restrained from performing the functions of national banks and confined in their activities to the fiduciary activities for which they were originally created.

There is no ground for the demand that national banks be granted trust company powers. There is urgent demand that trust companies be prohibited from exercising national banking functions.

RESULTS.

The Bee feels not a little pride in being permitted to congratulate the taxpayers of Douglas county on the practical results of at least one of its efforts at securing reform in administrative measures. For years The Bee has from time to time called attention to the graft in the item of feeding prisoners at the county jail.

This persistent hammering has at last borne fruit and for the next year the prisoners in the county jail will be maintained by the sheriff at an expenditure for meals at a trifle less than one-half of what is now being paid. This bid was not made on the basis of a falling market, but is honestly calculated on the actual cost of feeding prisoners.

The saving that will result to the taxpayers of Douglas county during the coming term in the sheriff's office will amount to thousands of dollars.

When The Bee recommended Sheriff-elect Bralley as a fit and proper candidate for the office it endorsed him as being a man who would give careful attention to the details of his office, who would not exploit it for his private gain and who would administer the office in the most economical and satisfactory manner.

Mr. Bralley's first move is to reduce the greatest single item of cost of the county jail by more than one-half. This is a practical redemption of the first promise made for him by The Bee. Results count.

TO PUNISH RUMOR MONGERS.

Congressman Dalsell of Pittsburg has introduced a bill making it an offense to circulate rumors detrimental to the credit of national banks. It is proposed to punish by fine and imprisonment those persons who make it a business to whisper, during financial panics, that they have heard on good authority, but it must not be repeated, that the Nineteenth National bank is just a little shaky and would be forced to the wall if a run on it was started.

This species of rumor monging has done no end of harm to financial institutions in many cities and laws could scarcely be enacted that would be too drastic in their application to persons who either thoughtlessly or maliciously give these damaging whispers currency.

Desirable as the reform proposed by Mr. Dalsell may be, there is little prospect of such legislation being enacted by congress. While the federal government has special supervision and control of national banks, it would be manifestly unfair, if not illegal, to attempt to give the banks a protection that is not extended to all other institutions.

Besides, the banks have their remedy, without resort to new legislation. Every state has laws providing for the punishment of slanderers and libelers, and the scandal mongers can be reached through them. One Pittsburg bank has already adopted this plan by causing the arrest of the person who started rumors to the effect that the bank was in financial distress.

The man has been indicted and is now awaiting trial. No surer way exists of unsettling confidence and producing stories of real trouble than these whisperings, persistent and insidious, of trouble among financial institutions, and the public will applaud and approve any vigorous methods that may be employed to ferret out and punish the originators of such reports, whether they relate to banks, other commercial institutions or to individuals, but the remedy will have to be applied locally and not through federal legislation.

Iowa has been removed from the "new west" by the age limit. At Burlington last Sunday Rev. Dr. William Salter preached a sermon on the eighty-sixth anniversary of his birth and recalled the fact that he had been pastor of the church for sixty-two consecutive years. We will have to begin referring to Iowa as "back East."

The attorneys for the Water board are making at least a showing of earning the large sums they have drawn by appearing before the United States supreme court, but if they garner the same harvest they have hitherto brought home the taxpayers will subsequently agree that it is money poorly spent.

The New York Sun is convinced that President Roosevelt is sincere in his declaration that he will not seek or accept another nomination. The president has achieved much in convincing the Sun of his sincerity.

Mr. James J. Hill has gone before the Interstate Commerce commission at Washington and made a showing that his western railroads are losing money on every car of lumber hauled to market from the northwest.

This has always been a marked feature of Mr. Hill's railroad administration. The lines under his control have invariably lost money, particularly the Burlington.

The Nebraska Railroad commission is now squarely before the United States supreme court and on the ruling of that body will depend the future action of the state board. The importance of the question involved is much wider than the state and the decision will be awaited throughout the country with much interest.

The state treasurer of Michigan deposited \$600,000 of the state funds in his bank, which failed. He refused to resign, even after requested by the governor to do so and removal proceedings have been commenced against him. He is evidently suffering from a case of hardening of the cuticle.

Kansas City banks are getting their doors open again and business in that section of the Missouri valley is beginning to take on its normal phase. This is one of the best indications that the danger of hard times is more apparent than real.

Henry Gassaway Davis, late candidate for the vice presidency, says if he is engaged to be married he does not know it. Thought Senator Platt was the only member of the old guard who could not keep track of his engagements.

Senator Heyburn of Idaho criticizes Secretary Garfield for sending to the senate the draft of bills he would like to have considered. The land and mineral policy of the administration has never been endorsed by the Rocky Mountain senators.

Mayor Jim has reached a hitherto unsuspected height of fame. His name has resounded through the senate chamber with all the forensic force of Tillman's vitriolic voice. Now Fate may do worse, but Mayor Jim's name is forever embalmed in greatness.

Lincoln business men by a postal card vote have endorsed parcels post, the postal savings bank and federal guarantee, and have turned down asset currency. Whether or not Lincoln speaks for the state, this is a good indication of the trend of public thought.

It will be observed that every time a bill is introduced in congress calling for the construction of a new battleship some foreign nation makes occasion to express its profound friendship for the United States.

The postmaster general has now taken up the Omaha postoffice case. Simply an indication that whatever decision is ultimately reached there will be no room for charge that proper consideration was not given the matter.

Professors Versus Facts.

New York Evening Post. A campaign that is to be absolutely free from money influence begins auspiciously with the assignment of a national convention to a city that offers \$100,000 for it.

A Republican Lift.

Indianapolis News. If you don't think Mr. Guggenheim is making a good senator just note that he put up \$3,000 to get the democratic national convention for Denver. This indicates both the breadth of mind and depth of a senatorial job.

Keep the Eagles Moving.

Philadelphia Record. Don't squawk that Christmas dollar too heavy. Even if it is a new double eagle let the poor bird fly. Free spending will scare the black cat and end the end of the ridiculous caterwauling. Let's bootjack the black cat and be merry.

By the Same Token.

Washington Herald. The junior senator from Arkansas says he has eight children, and "it doesn't take \$100,000 a year to support them, either." And, by the same token, we know a number of people with eight children, and it doesn't take \$1,500 a year and a mileage allowance to support them; but nobody expects the senator to decline his salary because of that.

The Country Needs Rest.

New York Financial Chronicle. There are increasing indications that the country feels its need of a long term of quiet and recuperation. With that, we shall gradually return to the old faith in individual action—faith in ourselves—and be willing to go on as formerly, each man doing his best for himself and trusting to laws which aim only to prevent injustice without trying to smooth out inequalities and make each man's prosperity the same as every other man's.

PERSONAL NOTES.

It cost a man in Newark, N. J., just \$20 for laughing at a politician. The new senator from Arkansas is "getting his" all right. A Chicago paper calls him the new Billy Mason.

After thirty-six consecutive years with the Pullman company, George F. Brown, 64 years old, treasurer of that corporation and recently its general manager, has retired from active life.

President Roosevelt has appointed General William C. Oates to succeed Colonel Elliott as a commissioner to mark Confederate graves. General Oates was former governor of the state of Alabama, a colonel in the Confederate army, a brigadier general in the Spanish war and also a former member of the house of representatives.

A Philadelphia woman attempted suicide because her husband bought all her clothes and had added to her wardrobe a red golf vest studded with large brass buttons and embellished with a brooch photograph of himself. Of course, there can be no defense of suicide, but it is fair to state that it has been inspired many times by grievances less serious.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. Legalized looting of the remains of insolvent financial institutions through the instrumentality of receivers' fees and lawyers' fees has grown to the proportions of a crime against creditors in New York City and state. The commission recently appointed to consider a revision of the banking code has been instructed by Governor Hughes to investigate and report a plan limiting the fees of receivers. A late instance of exorbitant fees is cited by the New York Sun. A young New York lawyer has presented a bill of \$20,000 for services as counsel for the receiver of the New York Building Loan company, for a period of nine months. This is at the rate of \$40,000 a year. The institution in question has been bankrupt for four years. When it failed it had \$1,000,000 in deposits and an investment of \$100,000. The creditors have received only 15 per cent of their claims, and an additional payment of 7 per cent is expected as the final disposition of the company's affairs.

This is only a fair illustration of the manner in which creditors are not only imposed upon, but actually robbed, in a legal way, through the system of receiverships and attorneys' fees in bankrupt cases.

The baldheaded man at last is coming into his own. Hereafter those with the willow hair pattern will be given the preference as secretaries in the lobster palaces along the Great White Northshore. This was the edict issued by proprietors of the big refectories the other day. As some of the waiters pull down a salary equal to a housemaid's and are much too busy among those with the "before using" knob. An other rule that will charm visitors is that all the gentlemen in waiting must conform with the pure food law and remove the real estate from their hands. Heretofore there have been many complaints that the waiters of the refectories were like the fly. Now a corps of manure artists has been added to the big establishments, and all waiters must be manufactured before they can handle a dish. This rule and a few others will make Alphonse and Michael things immaculate.

At the present time, says the Scientific American, there are being carried out in New York new engineering works of magnitude, public and private, whose total cost has been estimated at not less than \$60,000,000, and much of this work has been planned, begun and carried well on to completion with not one-tenth of the discussion and world-wide advertisement which has marked the operations on the Panama canal. Without entering into full particulars, it is sufficient to instance a few of the leading engineering works and their probable cost. In addition to the Catskill water supply, which is to cost \$102,000,000, two leading railroads of the country are rebuilding their terminal stations and electrifying their terminal and transfer service, at total cost for the two which, judging from the way things are going, will not fall far short of \$300,000,000. We refer to the electrification of the New York Central system and the construction of its new yard and station and electrification of the Hudson river and building an extensive system of subways below Jersey City and beneath the streets of Manhattan. The total cost of this work, by the time the terminal stations, yards, etc., are completed, will not be far short of \$500,000,000.

Rapid transit construction, moreover, has laid out extensions of the rapid transit subway, of which the first installment, which will soon be begun, will call for an expenditure of not less than \$100,000,000. Add to this the two bridges which the city is building across the East river, costing together about \$40,000,000; the Connecticut railway, with its 1,000-foot four-track steel arch bridge over the East river, to cost from \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000, to say nothing of a large number of minor but costly improvements, and it can be seen that the total easily amounts to the \$600,000,000 mentioned above.

It remained for an Italian director of funerals to introduce the automobile hearse to New York, and he is so pleased with the result that he has given an order for two exclusive and elaborate motor hearses, which will have beneath the body a vault for carrying the dead, but the upper part of the hearse will be fitted up for passenger carrying, and from sixteen to twenty people will be able to ride in the same vehicle to and from the cemetery.

The undertaker in speaking of the innovation said that he had noticed that automobiles were being used freely at funerals and the thought occurred to him that many of his clients would be in favor of using the motor car for funeral purposes, so he thought he would commence by getting a combination affair. His judgment has been verified by the fact that many have selected the motor hearse in preference to the horse-drawn one, as it is considered to be more up-to-date and fashionable.

The utility of the motor hearse will not be questioned, as it is safe and takes up much less room than the horse-drawn hearse. The undertaker who owns the hearse in question believes that economy will carry enter into the matter, for if he can also enter or twenty people with the remains, it will mean the elimination of a large number of carriages, and thereby save much expense. Long funerals where a large number of carriages are employed, not only obstruct traffic but are often delayed by other traffic, much to the annoyance of those attending the funeral.

If they haven't the original "Jemon" joke in the Metropolitan Museum of Art they came pretty nearly achieving that distinction. In one of the cases containing the Edward C. Moore collection of oriental art objects there is a group of pieces of Venetian glassware consisting of cups and vases of various kinds and shapes. On the lower shelf of this case there is a large-sized and perfectly shaped representation of a lemon in bright lemon-colored glass that will represent some Christian's idea of a joke, for it has nothing to do with the ordinary sort of pieces those glass-blowing shops turned out at that time. As it dates from the sixteenth century it certainly antedates any lemon known to the scientists connected with the museum.

The best proof that stealing water is not a device of the wicked modern corporations is the discovery of that secret pipe run into the old Fifth Avenue hotel when it was built. The present proprietor had never dreamed of the existence of the free supply. Nevertheless, he may have to pay for it for the last six years, at the rate of 5,000 gallons a day.

Real Necessary of Life.

Baltimore American. "What is money that it is held so precious? You cannot eat it, you cannot wear it, your shroud has no pocket in it, and St. Peter will not receive it for admission to the golden gates," says Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas. No; but you can buy things to eat and to wear, and if it is used rightly and with charity, it may be influential with St. Peter at the golden gate. The bon-bastic senator will not find many who will quarrel with him in his depreciation of the almighty dollar.

The Dago's Christmas

Scene: Cathoos of evergreens piled up here and there about town. Children-trees! Once with possibilities of becoming patriarchal trees, beautiful and grand! Stolen from government mountains—brought into the marts of commerce—thousands, yes, tens of thousands of them! How many Christmas trees in our town this year, loaded with presents and priestly blessings, were stolen? That one was stolen as a piece of property were a small matter. But stealing a child-tree, destined to become a patriarch tree, beautiful and grand, is indeed grand larceny! Priests in sacerdotal vestments, priests in chokeys only, may bless them, but cannot atone the assassination of one of these child-trees. "Thou shalt not kill!" Preacher! You! You cannot wipe the stain away. The best you or any householder, can do is to refuse to buy one. Thus worship our God! You destroy out forests, you destroy our rivers! Forests assassinated, rivers assassinated! Little evergreen, you! True priest of forest and river! True friend of ours!

There was a dago in our town. He lived in a shanty. His wife, several little ones, whom he loved. He was poor. Could he give them a Christmas tree? With his old horse and wagon, again and again he passed by stores of evergreens stolen from the mountains—perhaps from the government—beautiful, beautiful, never to become patriarchal things of beauty and grandeur! Again and again, I say, he passed those stores of evergreen trees. Could he have a Christmas tree?

The government has vast mountain possessions, reservations, thickly grown with children-trees aspiring to become patriarchs of beauty and grandeur. Why has it spoiled them? The government has had vast extents of lands for homes for the poor. Who have exploited them by fraud-

ulent entries, by subornation of perjury? A minister of the gospel, learned in theology—wise in the ignorance of other dago-pleads he did not know any better!

Railroads and officials educated in their services, rich and powerful, seize public lands without title, coal lands also, patriotism of the people, and derive from them vast profits through fraud and subornation of perjury. So men become rich—so vastly rich—so vastly respectable!

Togni, the dago, one night, thoughtful of the wife and children in his shack and of a Christmas tree for them, takes an evergreen tree from the store in a vacant lot, puts it in his wagon and takes it home. He is ignorant, else he would not have so prized a Christmas tree. A Christmas tree is not necessary to the glory of God! Togni and his wife set up the evergreen tree in his little shack, in the midst of poverty, in the midst of equality in the midst of littleness. They put on it a few little bags of popcorn, little bags of candy, little bags of nuts, a few tapers. Togni will have a Christmas tree—and Christmas eve has come!

There's a knock at the door. It is opened. An officer is there with a warrant. He takes Togni. Togni had stolen a tree. And Togni knew better! He could not plead ignorance! The officer carried him off. The wife and the children cry. This is a night for a Christmas tree! Togni, on Christmas night—Togni, on Christmas morn—sits in a cell in jail, because Togni has stolen an evergreen tree that was stolen from government land, has paid freight to the railroad and stands for profit to the merchant. Togni, know better! This was a night for a Christmas tree! JOHN D. HOWE.

P. S.—No, Ernest Esquire, Togni did not steal the tree on Sunday.

JABS AT OMAHA.

Wood River Sunbeam. The excellent man agreement, the elaborate cuisine and the healthy appearance of the landlord has induced Rev. George E. Ware, who was sentenced to one year's imprisonment by the United States court in Omaha, to seek a change of boarding place from Omaha to the hotel De Dunkel in Grand Island. Et tu Omaha, what a blow.

Hemingford Journal: The Omaha jury that convicted Pumphrey for the killing of a Chinaman, and fixed the penalty, was under no compulsion, and Chinamen should see to it that such facts as these reach the proper authorities. There is no desire on the part of the American people that anyone, no difference what the nationality may be, should be wronged or abused without punishment following it, "the wake of the crime."

Fremont Tribune: Ex-Mayor Reed of Kansas City was very infelicitous in at least one sentence of his banquet speech at Omaha the other night when the Dahlgren democracy wined and dined at a dollar each. He said: "The people have had enough of the jangle of the spur of the cowboy in the executive office." It was a thrust at Roosevelt, but the eyes of the banqueters all turned toward Mayor Jim. Reed shot at one duck but hit another.

Fairbury News: Omaha would be pleased to have this government spend a few dollars to make the Missouri river navigable, and it will probably be done, for that city has an irretrievable way of going after what it wants. But seriously we are inclined to believe that it would be as wise to expend our energies in an attempt to dip the Atlantic ocean dry so that our commerce might be carried on with Great Britain overland. The Missouri is a treacherous old stream. It is filled with quicksand from its source to its mouth, and it is here that the only foundation for the story, "I married a rich girl and in a few years ago, and I can look the man that sent you to ask me that question, begad, suh!"

"I broke a record today. Had the last word with a woman. How'd it happen?" "Didn't think it possible. How'd it happen?" "Why, I said to a woman in the car, 'Madam, have my seat.'"—Philadelphia Ledger.

"The minister who caused a split in his church which created so much excitement, has a huck of saying some very clever things about it."

"I am in the habit of saying that I am something of a witty scoundrel."—Baltimore American.

"I'd like to know how she can afford to keep two servants?" "How have you followed it out?" "I've been up against it and doing everybody I can."—Baltimore American.

"I wonder if the new cook can turn a good cake?" "I guess she can. She offered to stand me on my head the last time I went in the kitchen."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"What line of goods do you carry?" asked the suspicious man of the private detective who had represented himself as a traveling salesman. "I am in the 'huck' business," the latter answered, smiling. "—Baltimore American."

"I'd like to know how she can afford to keep two servants?" "How have you followed it out?" "I've been up against it and doing everybody I can."—Baltimore American.

"Colonel," said the reporter, "I am told that you once made a fortune in hay. Would you mind telling me the story?" "The only foundation for the story, suh," responded Col. Hunkshurster, "is that I married a rich girl and in a few years ago, and I can look the man that sent you to ask me that question, begad, suh!"

"I would please me mightily, Miss Stout," said Mr. Mugley, "to have you go to the theater with me this evening." "Face you secured the seats?" asked Miss Vera Stout.

"Oh, come now," he protested, "you're not so hard all that."—Catholic Standard and Times.

"Jane," said the man, "you are spending too much money. I must save part of my income." "Oh, what's the use of hoarding? Everybody is preaching against it."

"Well, all I can say is that if you keep on there won't be cent for alimony."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"I hear Lem Boggs Sundayed with six, deacon?" "Yes." "Goin' to lose yer darter, hey?" "I reckon, but not to Lem. Zeb Higgs Mondayed, Tuesdayed, Wednesdayed and Thursdayed with six, and he got the lucky man."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE.

Chicago Journal. The snow demands its flimsy mantle falls in crinkled heaps, like countless cashmere shawls. And now and then its chilly torrents slide Adown our necks from overhanging walls.

The great Napoleon, many years ago, Was hailed of conquest by the drifting And heads of white along the Russian roads Deal his imperial power its fatal blow.

Who is a brave man? He who storms a fort. Or faces sentence in a hostile court? Or laughs at fire and cyclone, or perchance Takes risk of slaughter in the foot ball sport?

Not so. The bravest is the man who'll dare A sin but in the whirl of snow to wear. Nor look behind, when passing groups of boys Exult and shout that bonnet then and there!

A Prince's Christmas Gift

There is No Other to Equal the Gift of a Piano

No store where so many of the desirable pianos are found, under one roof.

No other store where in the rush and bustle of Xmas shopping you are so certain your money is buying all it is worth.

Children are frequently sent to buy and select the pianos the parents pay for at the Hoop store.

Because the people know the Hoop store is strictly on price and sells the best pianos and does not add a goodly sum to the price in order to protect and pay the demands of commission takers. We've some very special bargains well known, reliable pianos—Save \$50 and more by buying a piano now, as your down-payment will be credited double this month. This is the best proposition ever made by any house and you should investigate it.

Factory distributors for Kranich & Bach, Krakauer, Kimball, Bush & Lane, Hallot & Davis, Cable-Nelson, Decker Bros. Co., Weser Bros., Whitney, Kensington, W. E. Palmer, Crummer, etc. Payments, \$6, \$7, \$8 and \$10