

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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Net Total, 1,115,028. Daily average, 37,408. CHARLES C. ROSEWATER, General Manager.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31 day of December, 1907. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

They are still wrangling over a motto for the new gold coins. How would "Abide With Me" do?

How popular the poultry show would be if the hens would lay an egg for each person who buys a ticket at the door.

"I have a perfect right to play Hamlet," says Comedian Eddie Foy, who apparently forgets the laws against murder.

The editors of McClure's magazine may be astonished to learn from cable reports that the United States navy is still aloft.

London Punch is publishing a series of articles on "How to Tell a Joke." The safest way for those of the Punch brand is to label it.

"The Suffrage laws of the south are very satisfactory," says the Atlanta Journal. Because they disfranchise everybody but democrats?

"The clock of prosperity is running down," says an eastern paper. Oh, no. It has just been wound up with a gold key imported from Europe.

Sir Thomas Lipton says he is going to try again next summer to lift the America cup. Sir Thomas believes in persistency—and advertising.

Still, those persons who insist that the new \$20 gold pieces are not satisfactory are not passing them along to folks who are not so finicky.

Ten lawyers have been engaged in a fight among ninety-six heirs for a \$20,000 estate in Cleveland. Puzzle: Find the future ten-owners of the property.

A St. Louis specialist insists that insanity may be cured by shopping. The proposed remedy has often been considered a cause rather than a cure for insanity.

Members of the cabinet in Holland resigned because their plans for a big appropriation for the army were rejected. The Hague peace conference was held in Holland.

The year 1907 will be memorable for breaking records in almost all the activities of life, but it is sure to be behind 1908 in one thing, namely, the number of leap year proposals.

It is declared that Admiral Evans has not been informed what route he is to take on his return from the Pacific. The admiral may not know where he is going, but he is on his way.

Cannon of Illinois and Fort of New York are now proposed as a presidential ticket. The anti-militarism vote would be rolled upon to go solidly against Cannon and Fort.

It does not look as though Mr. Bryan would have to deplete his bank account beyond the price of a ticket from Fairview to Denver in order to secure the democratic nomination next year.

Those Union Pacific tax agents have their nerve in asking to have taxes paid in Nebraska under protest returned to them. If by paying under protest they could get the money back for the asking, we would see the performance repeated every year by every railroad that has property subject to taxation in this state.

A BULL'S-EYE AT LONG RANGE.

The old story about going away from home to hear the news is again exemplified in a communication by a "Nebraskan" printed in the correspondence column of Harper's Weekly, which seems to hit the political bull's-eye at long range. Sizing up the presidential outlook, with special reference to Nebraska, this is what the author of the communication says:

Roosevelt says he will not take another term. He means it. He knows that he might spoil everything. He is a wise man. He knows when to stop, when he is being chased with Washington, Lincoln and McKinley. He remembers Grant's second term. He is now getting a little too confident. Several late moves are too radical and too much in advance of the times. He is going too fast.

Taft is a good man for the republicans. He is endorsed by the president. Hughes is good, but he is holding his first political office. Give him time to gain political experience. There is time enough for him later.

On the democratic side, I think that Bryan is a dead dog. All his mistakes—free silver, assaults on national banks, government ownership of railroads—will be used against him. The republicans have many hidden guns. They will bring them out and Bryan would be defeated. He cannot carry Lincoln or Nebraska against Taft. Governor Folk would carry a large republican vote. He is the best man for the democrats. Can't they see it? He would be the Cleveland, and carry a large vote on an anti-trust, tariff reform, anti-grain platform. Which party is ready to regulate saloons, lay state rights and federal control? Here is a chance for one party or the other.

While the earmarks all sustain the inference that this contribution was written by a democrat, it also bears the imprint of political experience and close observation. Particularly pertinent is the prediction that Bryan could not carry his own state against Taft. Particularly short-sighted is the suggestion that Folk would have any better chance of carrying Nebraska.

THE NEXT EXPOSITION.

The managers of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, scheduled for Seattle in 1909, have been wisely discreet in announcing that they will not ask any appropriation from congress in aid of their enterprise, except that they will seek and expect congress to provide for the construction of a government building and the installation of a government exhibit, such as has been a more or less prominent feature of expositions and world's fairs since the Philadelphia show in 1876. The promoters of the Pacific coast enterprise appreciate the fact that the Jamestown fiasco put expositions in bad repute. They do not evoke such enthusiasm as they formerly aroused when expositions were more of a novelty. Farces like Jamestown have resulted in souring congress and creating hostility to appropriations and guarantees and deficits paid by the federal government.

Aside from any financial features in which the government may have an interest, there is some excuse and reason for the proposed exposition at Seattle. It will serve, as intended, to exploit the possibilities of a too little known section of the United States. Bordering on the Pacific are half the people of the world, although the world, which has a habit of keeping its eyes turned the other way, is hardly aware of the fact. It is the purpose of the proposed exposition to bring Alaska, Australia, Asia and the western portion of America closer together and to make them better known. It will, in other words, direct the attention of the world to the westward course of the star of empire.

One of the needs of the west, a need also felt in Nebraska, is personal inspection and examination by easterners. Any enterprise that will promote such investigation will do some good.

THE ROAST BEEF OF ENGLAND.

It has not been many years since people living in England joined in riots and practically adopted mob law rule to prevent American dealers from sending live beef cattle to Great Britain. The real Englishman is a blind follower of precedence and custom and the national spirit was aroused when American enterprise located feeding pens on his island and stocked them with American cattle which were fattened, killed and prepared for the English market. In the long run, concessions were made and it was finally agreed that American beef tasted pretty good, but it must be killed on English soil.

For some years this custom has prevailed, but now the American invasion has taken a new form and American packers are opening branch houses in the big cities of England and selling American dressed beef, in competition with the English slaughtered meat. Ten of the biggest shops in London are owned by American packers and more are being opened. As a result, English dealers are appealing to the patriotism of their consumers and asking them to forswear American beef. The beefeaters, however, are patronizing the American houses and insisting that they like not only the American beef but the American prices.

In such an emergency, the staid and conservative London Times has been brave enough to warn its readers that they are on the wrong tack. The Times declares that England cannot hope ever again to be self sufficient for food supplies and the only question remaining is where shall the supplies be bought. On this account, the Times urges Britons to eat American beef and learn to like it, as trade links are stronger than artificial friendships formed through treaties. In other words, according to the Times' logic, the United States will never quarrel seriously with England so long as the United States furnishes England with

its roast beef. Alliances with Japan, friendship with France and neutrality agreements with Germany may be broken or violated in emergencies, but no quarrel will be invited with the source of food supply.

The argument is not without its significance to Americans. We need not care who calls or attends peace conferences at The Hague, which nation carries the most guns or owns the biggest battleships, if we have a guaranty of peace with the world so long as we can supply other nations with their beef.

TREATY RIGHTS AND MOB LAW.

The protest of the Italian government against the hair-trigger habits of Louisiana mobs serves again to direct attention to an apparently inherent weakness in our form of federal and state government which foreign nations have difficulty in understanding or appreciating. In the case in point, two Italian laborers were killed in a riot in a Louisiana lumber camp because the other laborers there objected to their employment. While this appears to be drawing the race question at a new line, the real point at issue is the action of Mr. Root, secretary of state, in confessing federal impotency for giving Italy the satisfaction demanded. The State department offers the old-time excuse that the killing of the Italians is a matter with which the Louisiana state authorities must deal and that the federal government has nothing to do in the premises, except to pay indemnity, if necessary, in satisfaction of Italy's claims.

The Louisiana incident is but a repetition of what has happened in California, when mobs assaulted Japanese residents and destroyed their property. The government at Washington insisted that the primary duty of punishing the offenders devolved upon the state and that the federal administration was helpless until the state authorities admitted that they were unable to cope with the matter. This confession of impotency on the part of the federal government came near involving the United States in serious complications with Japan. Foreigners generally fall to appreciate the divided authority that exists in this country. They make their treaties with the United States and fall to understand why the government authority is not supreme in the states when a treaty obligation is violated.

As a result of the Louisiana incident, it is announced from Washington that the president and the secretary of state will ask congress to pass a law providing that where a crime has been committed in any state against the person or property of a foreigner, the federal court may assume jurisdiction, if the treaty rights are involved or the foreigner is not given exact justice. The constitution provides that treaties shall be the supreme law of the land and this provision would seem to carry with it the power to enforce it. If congress has authority to make treaties, guaranteeing protection to the lives and property of foreigners temporarily domiciled in this country, it must have authority to enforce such treaties. If it has not such power, it will have quit making such treaties or expect to be called on continuously to pay for treaty infractions it cannot prevent.

The program for the annual meeting of the Nebraska Editorial association has been made public, beginning with an address by the president, who edits a democratic daily at Fremont, and winding up with an address by William Jennings Bryan, as the editor of a democratic weekly at Lincoln. The great majority of the members of the association, however, are republicans and they are all strong enough in the faith to withstand any political onslaught that may be attempted by this democratic battery.

Sloux City is soon to hold a water-way convention with special reference to the improvement of the Missouri river, and it goes without saying that Omaha's interest in the development of the Missouri calls for representation there. More than that, if a delegation is to be sent to Sloux City from Omaha, it should be big enough and representative enough to give this city its proper voice in the work of the convention.

The haste of the various municipal departments to exhaust their appropriations before the expiration of the year is the natural result of the charter provision requiring all unexpended balances to go into the sinking fund. With such a prospect in view the "unexpended balance" is bound to be a very small and rare bird.

Admiral Rixey insists that the hospital ship should be commanded by a medical officer. By the same argument, presumably, trained nurses and not police officers should drive the city ambulances.

The first real election in this neck-of-woods to be pulled off in 1908 will be the city election in South Omaha. South Omaha politicians are wisely deferring the scramble until the fight is nearer at hand.

Unless the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners gets quickly down to business New Year's day will see several more licks on in Omaha as a result of failure of liquor dealers to secure renewal of licenses.

Speaker Cannon says that immediately after the holidays congress will pass a currency bill that will be sound and timely. He has not yet taken the

public into his confidence as to what the new measure will contain.

The Omaha Horse show has gotten a bouquet from far away England. With such world-wide renown the Omaha Horse show will have to be continued without interruption as long as the horse show business has the call.

Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas has appointed one of his daughters to be his private secretary and another to be a clerk, thus adding \$2,700 a year to the family income. The senator is not as green as he pretends to be.

An Inconspicuous Finish.

The growing practice of discredited bankers committing suicide is borrowed from a much more noble custom of the seas where masters have been expected to go down with their ships.

A Piteous Spectacle.

"The poor man need not have any jealousies of the rich these days," says Mr. Stuyvesant Fish. We will shortly have the piteous spectacle of the so-called millionaire of the country selling their steam railroads and automobiles and endeavor to keep the wolf from the door.

Good for Present Use.

Portland Oregonian. In the panic of 1897 Henry Ward Beecher said to the commission officers who were on duty at Washington, the lanes being according to rank. This will be followed by sending out the medals to officers who are not on duty here. The distribution of these medals and the others which are to follow as soon as the mint can produce them will undoubtedly serve to revive the suggestion that the existing restrictions upon the issues of the emblems should be removed.

The Army Quartermasters who have to do with the purchase of fuel and forage for the military service now find there is no such difficulty in obtaining that material

has existed during the last year or two. This favorable condition is due to the stringency in the money market and the fact that the government is a steady and reliable cash paying customer. The situation has not disclosed an appreciable reduction in prices, which are maintained with considerable firmness, especially for forage. There are, however, evidences that there will be lower prices for fuel.

Great Names on Congress' Rolls.

Springfield Republican. The entrance of William J. Bryan into the United States senate from Florida to serve the balance of the late Senator Malloy's term introduces to the country an entirely new and original William J.—not at all the peerless one from Nebraska, not even his relative, Henry Bryan, being only 21, but he was born twenty years before the Nebraska came into being. We now have Congressman William McKinley of Illinois, Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas and Senator William J. Bryan of Florida. George Washington may turn up again as a national figure in due season.

Diamonds on the Toboggan.

Springfield Republican. That the market for diamonds should be among the first to feel the effects of the business depression will be readily recognized, and there is close relationship therefore between the American panic and the passing of the dividend of the De Beers company of London and South Africa. That company controls the diamond mining industry of the world and through its diamonds provide an adequate means to advance prices considerably in recent years. It is believed that the company is carrying a large unsold stock of precious stones which would "swamp the market" if they were thrown over.

Political Snags in Waterways.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. A congressional ordeal is ahead for river and harbor improvement on a comprehensive scale. It will come in the form of schemes to fritter away the appropriations by districts so that each congressman shall get a local share, a system that would be a shameful and wasteful miscarriage of the whole undertaking. There are members so selfish and purblind that they would rather dump hundreds of thousands of dollars into some "home creek" than to let an adequate appropriation to push work on the main river of the country. In a word, they are for a water-way prize distribution of cash from the treasury, allotted by districts.

WHERE DID THE GOLD GO?

Effect of the Financial Flurry on Business of Banks.

Wall Street Journal. Between the national bank calls of August 22 and December 3, about \$70,000,000 of gold deposits of the national banks of the United States during the same period the United States treasury increased its deposits in the national banks by \$60,000,000. A comparison of the reports made by the national banks to the controller of the currency under these two calls shows that between August 22 and December 3 the national banks of the United States lost about \$10,000,000 of gold. In other words, they held on December 3 \$20,000,000 of gold and gold certificates as against \$30,000,000 on August 22.

Thus in spite of the importation of \$70,000,000 of gold and the increase of United States deposits of \$60,000,000, the national banks have lost nearly \$10,000,000 of gold. This about \$4,000,000 was lost by the national banks of New York City. The question is, where has all the imported gold gone? Has it gone into the reserves of state banks and trust companies and into the hoards of scared individual depositors? Or, as indicated by this impressive fact, the national bank statements for December 3 make an excellent showing. Indeed the national banks have reason for congratulation in the admirable exhibition of strength which they have given during the financial crisis of this year. On the whole, and accepting some individual instances of delinquency, the national banks of the United States have performed well their function of reserve institutions. It is known that many of them have actually bought gold, charging the premium for the same to their depositors. Indeed, they might supply promptly the currency demands of their customers.

Notwithstanding all the demands of the panic period their percentage of legal reserve to deposits on December 3 was 21.3, as compared with 21.28 on August 22, so that they were substantially as strong after the panic as they were before, and this notwithstanding the fact that they held on December 3 \$40,000,000 less of specie and legal tenders than on August 22. Their actual percentage of cash to outstanding loans on December 3 was 14.4 against 15.90 on August 22.

Between August 22 and December 3 the national banks of the United States increased their loans \$30,000,000. They lost in specie, that is to say, gold and silver, \$21,000,000, and of legal tenders \$19,400,000, a total loss in reserve money of \$40,400,000. They suffered a loss of deposits due other banks and trust companies of \$36,143,000. This loss indicates the stupendous drain made upon these banks by the demands of other banking institutions. The net loss in individual deposits was \$14,000,000, which is \$5,000,000 more than the combined decrease in loans and in...

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Current Events Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register. Chaplain Edward H. Fitz-Gerald, Twenty-second infantry, on duty at Fort McDowell, CAL., will be promoted to the rank of major under the operation of the law which permits the promotion of chaplains on account of service which is unusual. There is on record at the War department to the credit of Chaplain Fitz-Gerald reports of his "most valuable and heroic services under fire, and gallant and conspicuous and distinguished service to sick and wounded on the field and in battle" at El Caney, in Cuba, and in reports of his valuable services rendered in the operations about Lake Laha, in the Philippines, in 1904. Chaplain Fitz-Gerald was appointed to the army as a post chaplain in 1897, and was assigned to the Twenty-second infantry in February, 1901.

There is being sent out from the quartermaster general's office this week the Spanish war medals, of which 4,500 have been received from the United States mint in Philadelphia. This will suffice to furnish all the officers and men who were in the army on January 11, 1906, with these emblems which now become a part of the regular uniform. The officers will buy them at cost price, which is 45 cents, including the extra bars and two-sections of ribbon. The medals will be furnished gratuitously to the enlisted men who are entitled to receive them under the provisions of the law and the requirements of O. O. 4, January 11, 1906. The first distribution will be at Washington, the lanes being according to rank. This will be followed by sending out the medals to officers who are not on duty here. The distribution of these medals and the others which are to follow as soon as the mint can produce them will undoubtedly serve to revive the suggestion that the existing restrictions upon the issues of the emblems should be removed.

The army quartermasters who have to do with the purchase of fuel and forage for the military service now find there is no such difficulty in obtaining that material has existed during the last year or two. This favorable condition is due to the stringency in the money market and the fact that the government is a steady and reliable cash paying customer. The situation has not disclosed an appreciable reduction in prices, which are maintained with considerable firmness, especially for forage. There are, however, evidences that there will be lower prices for fuel.

It has been decided to abandon the bamboo staff which has been used as the support of the army signal flags. It was believed that this staff would be lighter, easier of manipulation, and better suited for transportation than a heavier material. It was found that the bamboo cracks when kept in dry air, and when stored in a room where there is artificial heat. It has been decided to return to a very light, hard wood, the staff being made in sections for convenience in carrying, as was the case with the bamboo staff. The latter material was found expensive, because the troops who furnished had to purchase a large quantity of the bamboo in order to get the pieces of required dimensions, it not being possible to reduce the size by machinery, as in the case of hardwood.

Some idea of the cost attending the use of the automobile in the military service is furnished this week by the offer of sale by public auction by the depot quartermaster at Washington of an automobile which was purchased two or three years ago and which has recently been in use. It was found that the vehicle required a new mechanism and that the manufacturers would replace this for \$1,000. This was considered too much money to spend on the automobile and it is offered for sale as condemned material. The great cost of repairing machines of this type is a very good indication of the expense which attend the use of the automobile in the army. Those who are interested in such a mode of transportation are more than ever convinced that the military motor car, either for freight or passenger service, has not been furnished. Such a vehicle must be confined strictly to the lines of utility without decoration or the luxuries which embellish the motor cars now on the market. It is, of course, appreciated by those who have to do with the subject that the automobile is in a stage of development and that one of the easiest problems connected with its adoption to military use will be the sacrifice of the needless fixtures which contribute merely to appearance and add the quality of luxury.

PERSONAL NOTES.

The anti-trust agitation in Manhattan is not so strange as is the fact that people should care to live on the island at all. Eleven sellers of bogus mine stock had been convicted in Colorado and fined and imprisoned. Their dupes pay the fines, but the jail staff, fortunately, has to be their own.

"I don't believe a word that you have told me," remarks a New York judge after hearing the evidence of a policeman, thus accentuating the accepted statement that a policeman's lot is not a happy one.

Prof. Paul M. Milukoff, leader of the Constitutional Democrats in the Russian Duma, left St. Petersburg on Thursday for the United States. He plans to take the steamer Carmania from Liverpool, January 4. While in America he will speak on political matters.

Mrs. Thomas P. Gore, wife of the blind senator from Oklahoma, accompanies her husband to each session of the senate, and watches every gesture of the man. She is a perfect lady, and is liked by anyone else. The senator himself calls her "his eyes and right hand," and says she knows more about parliamentary law and politics than any other woman in the country.

An important historical discovery in Mexico has resulted from the efforts of Dr. Herbert E. Bolton, the American historian, who is in Mexico City, engaged in research work under the direction of the Carnegie Institute of Washington. The discovery consists in the unearthing of eighteen of twenty-two documents taken from the person of the prominent Zebulon M. Mason, who served in the United States army, by Spanish soldiers in 1808.

A Moneyless Campaign.

New York Times. The prospects for the coming election will be less influenced by the use of money than in any long time. The interests that in the past are believed to have supplied the sinews of war in the largest amount are not likely to open their check books very wide for either of the two parties. Indeed, the men who have been most famous for alleged liberality are now inclined to regard the issue as foregone, and that is not an opinion which would induce them to pay out hard cash.

Why We Point With Pride.

Chicago Record-Herald. Our navy certainly is a wonder. One hundred men from each of the battleships which passed at the island of Trinidad were given shore leave and there were no brawls. Can other nations blame us for counting with pride?

RAILROAD BUILDING OF YEAR.

Record of New Mileage, Betterments and Equipment. Chicago Inter Ocean. Beyond all question 1907 would have been the banner year for railway construction in the United States but for the panic and the unsettled conditions preceding it. Because of an unparalleled volume of traffic and the demands from all parts of the country for additional transportation facilities during 1906 and the early part of this year the railroads undertook almost countless construction projects. On last March 1 contracts were in effect for the building of over 10,000 miles of new track, while plans were practically adopted for as many more. Since that date, however, contracts have been awarded for less than 2,000 miles of track. Except in cases where the work was so far advanced that it would cost more to stop it than complete it, railway construction throughout the country stopped on September 1 for an indefinite period.

In view of the conditions which made it practically impossible for the railroads to sell new securities to defray construction expenses, the high prices of material, and the scarcity of labor at the beginning of the year, it is remarkable that in the year now ending 5,874 miles of new railroads are being laid, having a total mileage in the United States 235,000 miles. The new mileage of 1907 is only 236 miles less than that of 1906, which was surpassed only by that of 1888, when the high record of 7,106 miles was established. Louisiana leads all other states in new mileage laid this year, having 421 miles, while South Dakota and Texas are second and third with 386 and 381 miles. In Florida 330 miles were built, in Washington 311 miles, in Mississippi 303 miles, in California 283 miles, in Minnesota 277 miles and in Virginia 268 miles. In the nine states named there were built 2,783 miles, or nearly half of the new track laid in the entire country.

By groups of states the new mileage is as follows: New England states, 38 miles; Middle Atlantic states, 393; Central Northern, 439; South Atlantic, 1,008; Gulf and Mississippi Valley states, 997; Southwestern states, 968; Northwestern states, 1,170; Pacific states, 1,028.

The biggest construction project which is being carried out is the extension to the Pacific coast of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system. The longest stretch of single line built during the year was from Kenewick to Vancouver, a joint line for the Great Northern and Northern Pacific.

The effect upon the railroads of the panic and adverse legislation, national and state, is even more strikingly shown by the decrease in orders for equipment than by the falling off in construction. In 1907 only 2,482 locomotives were ordered by the railroads, while 5,642 were ordered in 1906. The freight car orders for 1908 amounted to 310,875, while in 1907 less than half as many, or 151,771, cars were purchased. In 1908 the railways bought 3,362 passenger cars, and in 1907 only 1,781.

Right retrenchment is the order of the day on every railroad in the country, chiefly because of the financial conditions and prospects.

LIFE IN THE FAR NORTH.

Plain Living and High Thinking of the Early Settlers of Iceland. National Geographic. The contrast between man and his surroundings so glaring as in Iceland. Buried in snow in darkness, deprived of every comfort, living on rancid butter and fried fish, drinking sour whey and milk, dressed like his servants, kneeling in a little boat his food, yet a cultured mind, possessing an intimate knowledge not only of the history of his own country but of Greece and Rome; a poet fond of throwing off satires, intellectually and morally the equal of his European guest. Considering himself your equal and refusing to be ordered about by a rich Englishman, owner of several square miles of land and hundreds of sheep, with a pedigree going further back than that of his visitor; a jack of all trades, a blacksmith in his smithy, boat builder and carpenter, an artist in filigree work, a carver in wood, an expert in the use of the hammer. Nowhere is the contrast between man and his surroundings so glaring as in Iceland. Buried in snow in darkness, deprived of every comfort, living on rancid butter and fried fish, drinking sour whey and milk, dressed like his servants, kneeling in a little boat his food, yet a cultured mind, possessing an intimate knowledge not only of the history of his own country but of Greece and Rome; a poet fond of throwing off satires, intellectually and morally the equal of his European guest. Considering himself your equal and refusing to be ordered about by a rich Englishman, owner of several square miles of land and hundreds of sheep, with a pedigree going further back than that of his visitor; a jack of all trades, a blacksmith in his smithy, boat builder and carpenter, an artist in filigree work, a carver in wood, an expert in the use of the hammer. Nowhere is the contrast between man and his surroundings so glaring as in Iceland.

There are no schools in Iceland, yet every child at 12 can read, according to the parish statistics. In no country in Europe are so many books printed and sold in proportion to the population. A population of only 75,000, scattered in many hamlets, has twelve printing presses, the earliest being established as far back as 1530; about 100 books annually, fourteen newspapers and eight periodicals are produced to satisfy the literary needs of this little nation.

Yet this literary people still live in a pastoral and Homeric civilization, which is a modern lesson of the healthfulness of human life lived in close contact with the free, wild life of nature, such as would have delighted the heart of Rousseau or Thoreau. As a proof of this, life is healthy. I give the example of a clergyman who died four years ago 113 years old, having managed to live all his days healthy and happy on \$150 a year, the average stipend in the Icelandic church. The sheep yield food and clothing. Their wool is put off in the spring, carded, spun, woven in hand looms and worn undyed. You make shoes of their skin and spoons of their horns. Every opportunity is seized for the telling of stories and reciting of poems. Only the milk ewes are kept at home in the summer to be milked. The rest of the sheep are gathered in from the mountains in autumn, notice being given at church from the pulpit.

The autumn gatherings, with people sitting on the walls of the stone inclosure telling stories, are quite Homeric. The winter evenings are spent with each member of the family busy at work in the same room; the men on their knees shaving the wool off the sheep skins, making ropes and nets of hair; the women using spindle and distaff, embroidering, etc., afford a still better opportunity for stories and puns.

There are even wandering minstrels who gain their livelihood by reciting prose or poetry, which they know by heart, at various farmhouses till they exhaust their stock.

Recruitment Makes Him Sad.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Joseph B. Ford of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, left a children's Christmas party at the house of a friend last night, walked out on the veranda, and blew a kiss to the children and then he was gone. Ford took a number of boxes of candy to the party and seemed to enjoy himself. Just before he went out of the house he told his friends that the recruitment of the children made him sad because it reminded him of his wife who died several years ago and of the home that her death caused to be broken up.

AS IT WAS, IS AND SHALL BE.

Spirit of the Times Not a New Phenomenon. New York Tribune. There are those who see awful portents in the signs of the times, to whom the world, and perhaps especially this nation, seems going along the paths of covetousness, luxury, profligacy and dissipation to irretrievable ruin, and who bitterly lament the passing away of the good old days of sobriety, industry and thrift.

Yet 129 years ago today, in the time of the primitive and sturdy virtues of our ancestors, so judicious an observer as George Washington wrote to his friend Benjamin Harrison: "If I was to be called upon to draw a picture of the times and of men, from what I have seen and heard and in part known, I should in one word say that idleness, dissipation and extravagance seems to have laid hold of most of them; that speculation, peculation and an insatiable thirst for riches seems to have got the better of every other consideration and almost every order of men. I need not repeat to you that I am alarmed and wish to see my countrymen roused."

Of a truth Solomon the son of David was right when he said: "Say not thou, 'What is the cause that the former days were better than these?' for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this."

PASSING PHENOMENA.

"That millionaire takes great pride in saying that he is a self-made man." "Ah! that is the mark of his manner not being finished."—Baltimore American.

"Clarence—Stingy? Why, that man wouldn't even tell a story at his own expense."—Harper's Weekly.

"Yep," said the neighbor, "my boy's pretty smart, but he's in the green one of these days. I've got 'im in training for it."

"What is he training for?" asked Farmer Cornelius, "in a library or a gymnasium?"—Washington Star.

According to Ernest Thompson Seton animals do not bite frogs.

It takes a grand, sweet truth of this kind to arouse the coldest heart a desire for a closer contact with nature.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.