

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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GEORGE B. TSCHUOK, Treasurer

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of February, 1908. ROBERT H. WINTER, Notary Public

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

The way to advertise Omaha is to advertise.

Maryland republicans have asked for reserved seats on the Taft bandwagon.

Spokane Cannon is more popular as a favorite uncle than he promises to be as a favorite son.

It is announced that King Leopold is going to take the hot air treatment. Going into politics again?

King Edward's cigars are worth \$3.20 each, says the Brooklyn Eagle. They may cost that much.

Bishop Scannell's remedy for the divorce evil is to make young people take betrothal more seriously.

Champ Clark says the democratic party does not have enough perspective. It has even less prospective.

San Francisco is offering 25 cents a head for rats. There ought to be money in raising rats at that price.

A Detroit woman wants \$75,000 for a kiss. Wall street in its palmy days never saw a more flagrant attempt at overcapitalization.

If the Kentucky courts are as slow in trying Young Hargis as they have been in trying Caleb Powers the young man may yet die of old age.

Stuyvesant Fish still has a lot of stock in Mr. Harriman's Illinois Central even if Mr. Harriman does not take much stock in Mr. Fish.

"Sing and you will be well," says Bishop Fallows of Chicago. Perhaps, but it is apt to make some of us a little unpopular with our neighbors.

It is to be noted that the movement for a new jail for Douglas county does not come from the jail inmates. They all hope to be out before moving day.

Of course, if the street railway company should by accident cart away more snow than it sweeps from its tracks, no one would complain very loudly.

Helen Keller says she would not part with the sense of touch if she were offered the sense of sight in exchange. Helen must have something politician in her makeup.

"Secretary Taft," says the Baltimore American, "has a big mind, a big heart and a big policy." And even after a shower of bouquets like that he shows no symptoms of having a big head.

If those globe-girdling automobilists only keep the pace they may reach Omaha in time to help inaugurate our new county roads paved with the proceeds of the Creighton estate inheritance tax.

The Buffalo Express wants to know why these noted opera singers do not learn our language and sing it, instead of singing in Italian or French. Probably because they know Americans would not pay fancy prices to hear them warble in English.

The War department wants an appropriation for the purpose of building an artificial island in Manila bay. It seems like a useless expense when the government owns so many real islands out there and could move one of them into the bay without missing it.

ANTI-REBATE LAW SUSTAINED

One of the strongest contentions urged by the railroad companies and other corporations charged with the violation of the railway rate law passed in 1906 has been nullified by the decision of the United States supreme court that the Elkins law, so-called, prohibiting the granting of rebates, was not repealed by the Hepburn bill. Most of the cases that have been brought by the government against corporations charged with violation of the anti-rebate law have been started under the provisions of the Elkins act. The offending companies have contended that the Elkins law was repealed by the Hepburn law passed later. The federal district court for Minnesota and the United States circuit court of appeals both held that the claim of the defendants was not valid, and this view has been confirmed by the supreme court of the United States. The decision has special significance by reason of its bearing upon the case of the government against the Standard Oil company, in which Judge Landis of Chicago found the oil company guilty of rebating and assessed a fine of \$29,240,000. The company appealed and recently asked to interplead before the supreme court in the Minnesota case, asserting that the issue raised in that litigation was practically identical with that involved in the company's case in Judge Landis' court. The decision, therefore, is adverse to the oil company on its chief claim for a reversal of Judge Landis' decision. It leaves the company with but little to plead before the supreme court except that the fine imposed was excessive.

The Department of Justice will welcome the decision as clearing the way for more active prosecution of the cases that have already been instituted in the courts in different parts of the country against corporations that are charged with violation of the law against rebating.

AMERICANS' BAD ROADS.

The foreigners who entered in the New York to Paris automobile race are in a rare state of disgust over the condition of the roads they have already traversed in the initial stages of the long journey. They declare that the highways are combinations of lakes and mud puddles and insist they have made mistakes in not bringing heavier machines. One of the drivers, writing from a snowbank in Indiana, expresses his conviction that he will find better roads in Alaska and Siberia than he has yet discovered in the United States. It will be interesting to hear from him after he has discovered his error. Americans are notoriously negligent in their care of highways. The Department of Agriculture has furnished from time to time data showing that poor roads cost the farmers of the nation many millions of dollars annually, and much effort has been expended to encourage better road building in the rural districts, without any very satisfactory results. With a railway station but a few miles away, the American farmer is not inclined to spend much time or money on the improvement of the wagon roads over which he must haul his produce to market. Such improvement work as is done is for the most part of a haphazard and slovenly character, without reference to any systematic plan. So long as the farmers do not improve the roads for their own benefit, there is little likelihood of their doing it for the benefit of automobile racers. The growing use of the automobile, even among the farmers, is certain to finally produce an agitation in favor of road improvement that cannot be ignored. It will be centuries, of course, before the highways of this country are brought to the condition found in the densely populated European countries, but it is not too much to hope that each year will witness an improvement that will afford some relief from the existing conditions, which are simply disgraceful.

THE SENATOR FROM MISSOURI.

Down in Missouri they are having one of the prettiest fights in the political history of the state, the prize being a senatorial toga now worn with more or less grace by William Joel Stone, more familiarly known as "Gum Shoe Bill." The other contestant for the place in the United States senate so long held by George Vest is Joseph Wingate Folk, now governor of the state. The conflict is really between the old and new schools of politics and the contestants are striking representatives of their class. Stone's feet are shod in worsteds. He has an eager eye, a buttonhole clutch from which there is no escape and a faculty amounting almost to genius for getting the ear of the man with a pull in every township he visits. In one of the old fights in the state he accused "Bill" Phelps, a famous lobbyist, of sucking eggs. Phelps retorted that "Bill Stone sucks eggs, too, but he hides the shells." The remark furnishes a key to Stone's political methods. From Bird Point to Rockport and from Kirksville to Neosho he has traveled up and down the state, using sub rosa tactics in placing political strings that he could pull at convention time. In state contests, Callaway, old Pike, Buchanan, Jackson, Benton, Jasper, Holt, Nodaway and other counties have had their favorite sons, but when the roll was called the nominees were almost invariably found to be Stone men. If they were not on his list before the election, he made it a point to see that they got on it afterwards. He was a master manipulator under the old convention system. Folk is for about everything that Stone has been against. As governor, he has fought the corporations with

which Stone has been on chummy terms during all his political career. He has succeeded in securing the adoption of a state-wide primary law, which is considered a body blow to Stone and his methods of wringing in conventions. Folk deals in investives, while Stone whispers soothing pleas for peace and compromise. Folk is making his campaign on his record. Stone is trying to get away from his. Yet both are strong in influence and political backing. Democratic feeling is running high and lines are closely drawn. Folk is said to have the support of the rural voters, while Stone still retains his grip on the city politicians. The result of the contest is a most interesting speculation. To add zest to the fight, there is a growing prospect that old Missouri may decide to furnish Senator Warner with a republican colleague.

A FREE SEED IDEA.

A few years ago "the only democratic congressman from Nebraska" made the humiliating confession that his sole field of usefulness at Washington consisted in distributing free garden seeds to his constituents. It seems that even this humble occupation might have been productive of good had the free seed allowance been turned to practical account, as is proposed by Congressman Pollard from the First Nebraska district. Mr. Pollard has this announcement running over his name in the various newspapers of his district: On account of the fact that I have no faith in the good results that follow the free distribution of garden seeds, I shall pursue the same course this year that I did last, and only send garden seeds to those who request them. I have exchanged 10,000 packages of garden seed for a like amount of flower seeds which I desire to distribute among the public schools of my district. I reserved enough garden seed, however, to supply everyone with them that makes request for the same. Everyone knows that the free garden seed business is a humbug and a graft started on the theory that the government should furnish seed for rare or specially developed plants for experimental purposes, but that it never stuck to the text. If we must have free seeds, by all means let it take the form of a distribution to the public schools where the children may make flower gardens of their playgrounds and at the same time learn from nature the lessons of plant life.

FORMULATING A PROPOSITION.

Whatever might be decided upon to meet the conditions complained of in the jail and court house, it would be necessary to secure authority from the voters of the county because the law as it stands absolutely prohibits any expenditure in excess of \$1,500 in construction work without such authority. This being the case, the county board is pursuing the proper course in taking steps to formulate a definite proposition covering the court house and jail question so that it may be submitted at an election. We believe the taxpayers of Douglas county and voters generally will be willing to approve a feasible plan, carrying with it, if necessary, the raising of the money by the issue of bonds, if it is put before them in definite shape. Every one who has any business whatever to transact with the county offices or in court realizes the inadequacy of the present county building and the necessity of a modern and commodious structure to supply the needed quarters. The question of jail accommodations is only a part of the court house and jail problem and it may as well all be taken up together.

TO DEPOSE CHAIRMAN DICK.

The reactionary republicans refuse to be reconciled to Mr. Taft's methods of managing his campaign in Ohio and in the country at large. The latest protest comes over the announcement that the Taft forces in Ohio have decided that Charles Dick, United States senator and chief foe of Taft, shall be deposed as chairman of the Ohio republican state committee and relieved of the duty of managing the coming campaign of the party in that state. It is urged that Dick is the best posted man in Ohio in the duties of campaign management and that his long service to the party under Mark Hanna and Mr. McKinley entitles him to retention at the head of the committee. While it may be something of a novelty to have a campaign in Ohio without Senator Dick leading the fighting force of the republicans, it is but natural that the Taft men should insist upon having a man in charge of the battle whom they can trust to exert every effort of himself and his followers to accomplish a sweeping victory. It would not be reasonable for them to expect such service from Senator Dick. Had the Foraker forces won in the recent primaries, some will contend that they would have selected a Taft man to manage their campaign for them. Under the circumstances, it should not be necessary for the Taft men to depose Chairman Dick. He should resign.

The democratic councilmen who were so hot to let a sewer contract at excessive figures a few months ago in order to favor a particular contractor now pretend to have discovered that the sewer in question is not needed at all. Had they been able to deliver the goods to their preferred bidder this wonderful discovery would never have been made.

The local democratic organ would have everyone believe that all the delegates to the democratic state convention instructed for Bryan by the appointing committees have gotten their

inspiration straight from the people, while all the delegates to the republican state convention instructed for Taft at direct popular primaries have been required to take orders from the bosses. The World-Herald should take something for its political malady if it has not already become hopelessly incurable.

The United States supreme court has turned down the demand made upon James J. Hill by Clarence H. Verner for a "divvy" on the profits of the Great Northern railroad. While people hereabouts by no means approve of all of "Jim" Hill's stock market operations, they are less likely to waste any sympathy on Verner, whose devious methods were shown up when he made a similar attack on the owners of the Omaha water works at the time the original company passed through a receivership. The only wonder is that Verner succeeds in retaining lawyers of good reputation to go to the front for him in these suits.

The mysterious disappearance of J. H. Edmiston just at the time he is wanted to stand trial in the federal court on serious charges of land frauds recalls that Edmiston was for years a distinguished leader of the "allied reform forces" in Nebraska. But, of course, because one fake reformer is shown up in his true light does not prove that every one enlisted in the reform movement was corrupt or even insincere. The well-meaning ones, however, long ago "got on" to the crooked leaders.

Keith county populists have precluded a resolution with the following declaration: Realizing that our political strength is not sufficient when working separately to elect the best men to official position. Does this mean that their political strength is sufficient to elect the worst men to official position?

Adlai Stevenson has been elected president of the Illinois State League of Bryan Clubs. Newspapers generally will be glad to print any letter of congratulation that Mr. Stevenson receives from his old running mate, Grover Cleveland.

A fund of \$500 has been bequeathed to the treasurer of a Massachusetts town in trust to establish an old-fashioned spelling bee. Simplified spelling boards may reserve the right to protest.

Theodore Shonts denies the report that he is going to retire from business. He cannot afford to quit making money. His daughter has married a French duke who has a reputation of being a good spender.

Mayor Dahman announces that the fund for the benefit of the family of Detective Drummy will be closed with the end of this week. Those who feel like contributing to this worthy cause should not defer doing so.

"The lesser politicians," says an exchange, "are wondering when the candidates will begin to warm up." Most of the lesser politicians are more anxious, as a rule, to have the leaders loosen up.

Novel Political Asset.

Chicago Record-Herald. Hughes is the only presidential candidate who could expect his father to go on the stump for him.

Courtesies of Favorite Sons.

New York World. Taft's kindly consideration for the Hughes boom at home is matched by the anxiety of New York's governor not to dull the incandescent of the Cannon boom at his own Chicago. The favorite son is not like the spear which knows no brother.

Delegating Regulatory Powers.

New York Tribune. The decision of the court of appeals upholding the gas commission law settles the question regarding the constitutionality of the public service commission act. The legislature can confer regulatory powers on a commission of its own creation. The decision is important because the suppression of public utilities is far too large a task to be undertaken by the legislature directly. The creation of a commission with great powers is the only practical way of handling them.

Honesty the Best Policy.

Wall Street Journal. Recent events have served to bring home to the minds of multitudes of people the wholesome lesson that dishonesty or trickery or the obtaining of special privileges by manipulation and deceit, or the creation of wealth by methods which do not square with the economic law, does not pay. A time of panic is a great revealer and leveler. It is then that truth and shame, honesty and rascality appear in their true colors. It is unnecessary to name names.

Plea of Niagara Loafers.

Boston Transcript. Niagara continues to distress commercial minds, who lament the waste of so much good water power. Their latest plea for a chance at the "development" of the falls is that cascated factories will improve the scenery. If they have in mind a renaissance power plant or a Gothic gill mill which enhances nature's beauties they are invited to point it out. The architectural triumphs of the factory type are well known. Save Niagara if possible, but if it is to be ruined, let it be ruined honestly—no pretend fortresses, no stucco cathedrals!

Uncle Sam's Best Customer.

Philadelphia Press. The total foreign trade of the United Kingdom last year was \$4,900,000,000, compared with \$3,300,000,000 traded carried on by the United States. British imports, however, exceeded British exports by \$600,000,000, while American exports were greater than American imports by \$500,000,000. From these figures it would appear that the English are the greatest buyers in the world, which they undoubtedly are, while the Americans are the biggest sellers. But Englishmen buy of necessity and Americans purchase mainly from choice. That is to say, the British people are obliged to buy imported food and clothing, whereas the United States can have easy access to these things produced at home, spend money for imported luxuries.

OPPOSITION DON'T PLAY FAIR.

Distorted Political Reports Disseminated Against Secretary Taft. Friends of Secretary Taft in Washington and elsewhere have been aroused to emphatic protest by what they characterize as "below the belt" methods of the opposition. That the adversaries of the secretary are disseminating distorted political reports with the view of confusing the public with regard to matters about which it lacks information is the charge that is being made with considerable emphasis. A bill of particulars is submitted in a letter from the Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript, as follows: There was never any doubt from the outset, any reasonable doubt, friends of Secretary Taft assert, as to the attitude of the Buckeye state. In their opinion the existence of an overwhelming Taft sentiment was sufficiently obvious to convince the most superficial observer of political affairs. In Ohio the existence of that sentiment was readily recognized, but reports were circulated in the city of Cincinnati which could have had but the one purpose of creating a doubt in the minds of the people outside of Ohio. As these reports were met and contradicted and disproved by the Taft managers, other doubts, announced by them as artificial, were created. Even the election of a state convention unanimous for Secretary Taft, regarded as the inevitable forerunner of a solid Taft delegation from Ohio to the Chicago convention, did not serve to put a period to this alleged pernicious activity. Opponents of Secretary Taft continued to lay stress, for instance, on the defeat of Congressman Dawes for the renomination in the Fifth district, acclaiming it as a Foraker victory. This in face of the uncontested assertion that the candidate who wrested the prizes from Dawes is himself an avowed Taft man and the further fact that the Fifteenth district instructed its delegates to the Chicago convention for Secretary Taft.

But aside from Ohio affairs, reference is made to the application of the principles of the game of buffed to other situations that would even remotely permit it. The convention held in the Fourth Oklahoma district, the first district convention held, is pointed out as an example. Although the delegates chosen were instructed for Taft, and although these delegates declared for Taft, they were acclaimed as anti-Taft men for the purpose, it is said, of creating and continuing a condition of doubt in the minds of those not directly in touch with the Oklahoma situation. Florida is alleged to have been used for the same purpose, the organization of a contesting delegation there being announced as lacking genuineness and sincerity, as evidenced by the declaration of the leader of the Taft opposition that the anti-Taft delegation, even though it should be a contesting one, would be recognized by the Republican national committee. The idea sought to be conveyed, Mr. Taft's friends infer, was that the national committee could be controlled against Secretary Taft, no matter how perfect the claim of the regularity of Taft instructions and Taft delegates might be. This statement they resent with all the emphasis at their command. Moved by the careful canvass they assert without hesitation that in the national committee the supporters of a square deal are in an overwhelming majority. They are firmly convinced that every contest brought before the committee will be obliged to stand strictly on its merits.

Stories dealing with the political affairs of Michigan, California, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and elsewhere, calculated to give the public an exaggerated view of the ineffective opposition to Secretary Taft, are also cited. As a writer contributing to political affairs in the reference had to the tales of an alleged "combination" by the "allies" by virtue of which the delegates of the favorite sons were to be "delivered" to that member of the combination whose prospects for the nomination should seem best. Secretary Taft's friends pronounce this story as absurd. They point to the fact that the members of this "combination," even if inclined to countenance such deliveries, could not accomplish them because of the strong second choice feeling in their respective states in favor of the war secretary. But although this fact has been made clear by political leaders in various states in the hope, it is alleged, of depriving the public of that clear view of the situation to which it is entitled and which would naturally redound to the benefit of Secretary Taft.

This the protest ruse. It would not be complete, it is asserted, without reference to the charge that President Roosevelt has used federal patronage in the political interest of Secretary Taft, which charge is held to be of the same character, and to which the reply of President Roosevelt and the failure of Senator Foraker to show a reasonable cause is accepted as a complete refutation. On all fours with the patronage charge, it is asserted, is the cry raised against so-called "officeholders' conventions" in the south, the nature of which is evidenced by scrutiny of the men raising it. If there are officeholders among the Taft supporters in the south, it is pointed out, they are in the foremost ranks of the opposition to Taft men who happen not to be officeholders solely because the president, regarding character and fitness as the prime requisites for officeholders, declined to appoint them to the office they coveted.

PERSONAL NOTES.

A man named Hoiler looms up as a candidate for the prohibition nomination for vice president. Hoiler will help some while the party sticks to the woods.

Four Philadelphia girls were recently arrested upon the charge of blowing smoke in men's faces. The flirtatious ways of Philadelphia maids certainly are cute and coy.

The justly celebrated lake breezes of Chicago, united with a blast from Medicine Hat, blanketed the Windy City last week with several inches of snow, caused the death of injured 150 persons and pulled \$5,000 out of the city treasury for street cleaning.

Representative Joseph A. Goulden of New York, who has brought himself prominently in the limelight through his championship of the supernaturated clerks on the government payroll, is a Pennsylvanian by birth, and during the civil war served in the navy.

Two brothers of Boston long on nerve and short on money, bid \$104 for \$40,000 of New York City bonds, and were awarded that amount. As soon as the award was announced the nifty pair were offered a premium of \$2000 for their share of the bonds. Wouldn't that winning jar you?

William Hildebrand, one of the foremost civil engineers in the country, died in New York Saturday. Mr. Hildebrand built the cog railroad up Pike's Peak and rebuilt the Cincinnati-Covington suspension bridge without interrupting traffic for more than an hour any time. His widow was Miss Hubbard of Covington, Ky.

Lieutenant General Miles, who has made his home in Boston since 1903, has gone to Washington, where in the future he will reside. The reason for the change is said to be that the general is writing a book of a character that makes it desirable for him to be where he can have easy access to the War department and other government records.

ENGLAND SAYS NO ALUM IN FOOD. and strictly prohibits the sale of alum baking powder— So does France So does Germany. The sale of alum foods has been made illegal in Washington and the District of Columbia, and alum baking powders are everywhere recognized as injurious. To protect yourself against alum, when ordering baking powder, Say plainly— ROYAL BAKING POWDER and be very sure you get Royal. Royal is the only Baking Powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar. It adds to the digestibility and wholesomeness of the food.

RAILROAD ACCOUNTING.

Importance of Establishing a Uniform System.

Chicago Tribune. One of the features of the railroad rate law was a provision for a uniform system of accounts. It gave the Interstate Commerce commission the right to prescribe a limit of time within which such a system should be adopted by all common carriers. It opened the books at any time to the inspection of the commission. It fixed an adequate penalty for failure to keep books in the manner specified, for refusal to permit inspection, and for falsification of the accounts.

The statistics of the commission express his conviction that this part of the law will prove of great value to the investor in railway securities. It will tend to remove these from the field of speculation. With full knowledge of the exact state of affairs the investor will recognize as desirable the securities of those companies which are managed properly. On the other hand, the weakness of others will be shown where there has been dishonesty and juggling of accounts. Railway securities will be counted safe investments, their present speculative character largely disappearing.

The same student of the situation believes that it will be possible, under the new system of uniform accounting, for the government to select classes of railroad bonds which will be perfectly safe as security for the ultimate payment of circulating notes. The accounts of common carriers are no longer private, but may be made as completely subject to public control as are those of the United States Treasury department. It will be possible at any time to ascertain exactly what the status of a particular company is.

Under the rules which have been adopted detailed statements are to be made regarding depreciation and improvements. It has been feasible, under the present system, to state net revenues by failing to include all the costs of operation under operating expenses. At other times, operating expenses have been made to include what really was a permanent improvement of the property. There has been no uniform rule in these matters. Oftentimes a good showing has been made when the actual facts would not warrant it. Sometimes the stock market has been influenced by such actions. The uncertainty has made railway securities speculative instead of giving them the investment character which they will have under changed conditions.

LAUGHING GAS.

"What, after all, are the fruits of politics?" "If one is to speak from observation, I should say there are only two varieties—lemons and plums."—Baltimore American.

Towne—Luschnan is troubled a great deal by his wife's insomnia. Brown—I didn't know that before.

"Here, you," said the conductor, angrily. "Shut up, you fare. Do that again and I'll put you off."

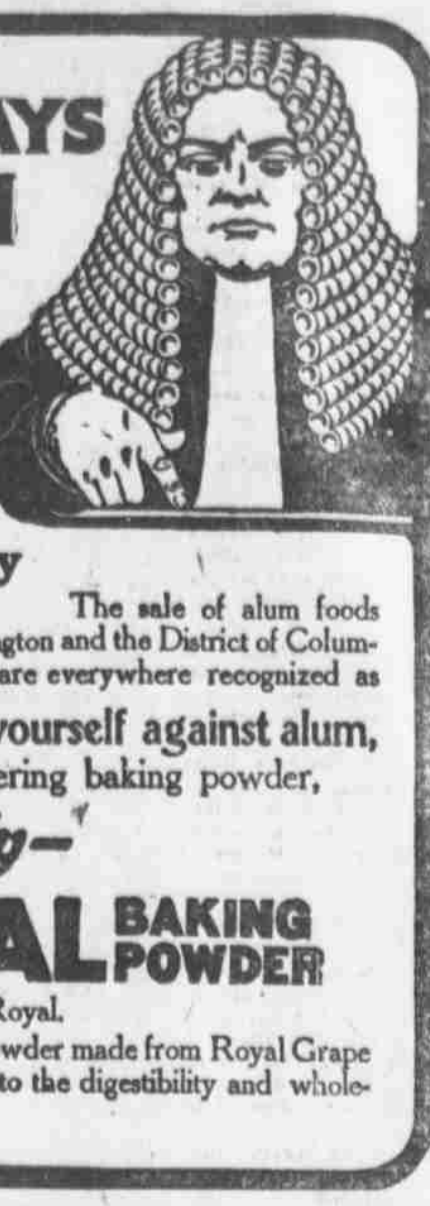
The small man standing jammed in the middle of the car, protesting for a seat, uttered fare. Thereupon the conductor projected him through the crowd and to the edge of the platform.

"Thanks," said the little man. "I didn't see any other way to get out. Here's your dime."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Towne—Yes, she usually has a severe attack of every kind when she comes in late and then the trouble begins.—Philadelphia Press.

"What we want," said the patriot, "is a thoroughly honest government."

"Look here, my friend," answered Senator Sorotium, "the government's intentions are in the main pretty good. What



THE MELTING OF THE SNOW.

"T. A. Daly in Catholic Standard. 'Tis cold th' day," said John McCann. Upon the road to mass. The snow word said Mary Ann. But stopped to let him pass. Fur, shure, he was the bold young man. An' she the modest lass.

'Twas not himself that would be balked. So badly, an' so. He timed his steps w'ed her an' walked Beside her, through the snow. But if she passed upon her way, So modest an' so grim, 'Twas little he could think to say, An' less she could to him. But the snow she said were high. The little chapel door: 'A colder land, a colder sea, Than this, for all its store of gold. For all it is so grand, I never knew the feel of cold At home, in Ireland; But here, in these forsaken parts, The snow, the bitter storm, Creep even into Irish hearts. That should be kind and warm, O' kind the maidens, Mary Ann, Who tread the Irish grass. This blessed day!' said John McCann, Upon the road to mass.

Small head is where the heart is not, An' shure, 'tis safe to say, 'Twas little that the pastor got From Mary Ann that day. No stars had she for any word But that that bold young man's, An' folk, the only thing she heard Was when he read the bans. For two true hearts that should be in It happened, when the snow was down, Then out she passed an' home went she Beneath the winter sun, An' knew he said when turned her head Who was it walked beside. 'Ye heard the bans?' Ah! well, 'tis said, 'There's never seen before a bride, Thank God! one Irish heart is sweet, Though all the one I know That makes my own lone heart to beat Is cold an' hard as snow. 'But now 'tis softer, John McCann'— O'chone! the modest lass, Upon the road to mass.

O' bells were on the breeze that ran Along the budding grass, An' shure the snow had its ban! 'Tis day to see them pass, When John and Mary Ann McCann Came down the road from mass.

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