

THE DAILY BEE. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

Subscription rates table: Daily (Morning Edition) including Sunday, One Year \$10.00, Six Months \$5.50, Three Months \$3.00.

OMAHA OFFICE: No. 1221 F. STREET, NEW YORK OFFICE: ROOM 201, TRIBUNE BUILDING, WASHINGTON OFFICE: NO. 232 FIFTH STREET, N. W.

COMMUNICATIONS: All communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to the Editor of the Bee.

ADVERTISING: All advertising notices should be addressed to THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

THE DAILY BEE.

State of Nebraska. County of Douglas, S. S.

Geo. B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, does solemnly swear that the actual circulation of this paper for the week ending Dec. 3rd, 1898, was as follows:

Circulation statistics table: Saturday, Nov. 27, 13,220; Sunday, Nov. 28, 18,100; Monday, Nov. 29, 13,410; Tuesday, Nov. 30, 12,965; Wednesday, Dec. 1, 13,300; Thursday, Dec. 2, 13,313; Friday, Dec. 3, 13,275.

Average, 13,216. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of November, A. D. 1898.

Geo. B. Tzschuck, Notary Public. I, Geo. B. Tzschuck, being first duly sworn, depose and say that the actual circulation of this paper for the month of January, 1898, was 10,758 copies; for February, 1898, 10,660 copies; for March, 1898, 11,537 copies; for April, 1898, 12,191 copies; for May, 1898, 12,459 copies; for June, 1898, 12,298 copies; for July, 1898, 12,314 copies; for August, 1898, 12,494 copies; for September, 1898, 13,030 copies; for October, 1898, 13,289 copies; for November, 1898, 13,216 copies.

Geo. B. Tzschuck, Notary Public. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of November, A. D. 1898.

SEAL. N. P. FARR, Notary Public.

A FLORAL inchon decorated Senator Van Wyck's desk at the opening of congress. It was supposed to typify the fact that the senator is "a stayer."

Mr. BAYARD succeeded in incorporating his report in the president's message. But we are pained to notice that all mention of Manning is omitted. The influence of democratic foreign missions on the missionaries is one of the most startling diplomatic phenomena of the age.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS has not strengthened the democratic element with reference to civil service reform. The new dose administered by Doctor Cleveland shows signs of refusing to stay down. It is not Jacksonian medicine in Jeffersonian spoon, and nothing else is palatable nowadays to the pap sick bourgeois.

WHEN we have entirely recovered from the effects of the coal find the time can be profitably employed in working up interest in the railroad problem. Douglas county needs more direct rail connections with her trade territory. If they cannot be obtained in one way they should be secured in another. But secured they should be.

SENATOR COX has returned to congress after a year's vacation in Turkey. Mr. Cox is more valuable in his old position on the floor of congress than as an adjunct to Mr. Bayard's state department. With Abraham Hewitt absent from the lower house, New York can be congratulated that Mr. Cox's old seat will be filled by one of the soundest and ablest of the leaders of the eastern democracy.

A CORRESPONDENT from London notes with pleasure "the perfume of pure American life in the midst of British society." It must be very noticeable. America has not yet reached a point where the leaders of society can flaunt their filthiness and immoralities in the face of the world and hold up their heads among decent people. We do not imagine that it is any different in the American colony in London.

THE contest in the California legislature over the election of a United States senator is expected to be decidedly hot. It will be a battle of millions. Mr. Hearst, who is filling a vacancy by appointment of the governor, desires election. The taste he has had of senatorial dignity and privileges is pleasing to him, and what is quite as valuable as a stimulant to his aspiration, his wife is ambitious and enjoys the society of Washington. The Central Pacific railroad will have a candidate friendly to its interests, and it will not be sparing in the use of money to further his cause. Hearst is wealthy enough to compete and will not lack liberality. The members of the California legislature who are not averse to accepting a considerable sum for their support, have therefore the promise of a rich harvest. It is said that it is expected that figure will be considerably exceeded in the election of this winter. Besides his own resources, Hearst will be backed by a local mining firm of San Francisco reputed to be worth \$30,000,000.

CONGRESS started promptly at work yesterday. The committees are in full operation and members are steaming away at bills in which they or their constituencies have a personal or peculiar interest. It is noted that the short session of congress is quite as likely as the long session to be characterized by the passage of important legislation. In fact the record shows that it is even more so. During its first session every congress is making politics and dawdling and timidly fencing for the election of the next congress, which by our singular system comes between the two sessions of the current congress. At the second session it is more apt to settle down to business. There is no exception of the late session of 1897-8 than has been done in all the sessions since. The fact that the session ends by expiry on the 3d of March determines its duration definitely and the committees know that they must cut out their work according to their time.

The Message Not Contentious.

The message of the president will disappoint those who hoped or expected that he would avail himself of the opportunity to conciliate the party by such a modification of views and recommendations regarding the leading policies of the administration as might mitigate the hostility, if it did not fully satisfy, the factions in avowed opposition to those policies. It cannot be known how much personal effort has been brought to bear upon the president to induce him to take such a course, in order that party disaffection, now marked and widespread, might be remedied, and harmony established and maintained, but he has had abundant counsel and suggestion in this direction from the democratic press with warnings that a failure to heed the advice would inevitably prove disastrous to his own and the party's political future. Ever since the November elections the New York Sun and World, the Louisville Courier-Journal, the St. Louis Republican, and other less potent exponents of democratic opinion, have been tendering the president instructions as to his duty in the interest of the party, not always omitting a pungent arraignment of the course he has thus far pursued.

It is possible that much of this counsel and criticism failed to reach the attention of the president, but in any event the message is evidence that it has not been heeded. Mr. Cleveland stands firmly on the lines which he marked out in his first message, and which created factional opposition to his administration as they threw the party into disorder. He has abandoned nothing and made no concession to any element. On the subject of tariff revision he speaks with even greater earnestness than before, as might have been expected from a fuller and more comprehensive acquaintance with the subject. The year of study which the president has devoted to this question has given him a clearer perception of the injustice which the great body of the people suffer from the burden of taxation imposed by the present tariff system, and he therefore states his views of the situation and its demands with greater elaboration, clearness and force than before. He is no less firm in maintaining his position respecting the compulsory coinage of silver, though his reference to this subject is much less extended than a year ago and the reasons he gives for his faith not more impressive. There have been changes in the relative position of silver within a comparatively few months that have done much to confound the theories of the anti-silver element. Regarding civil service reform the president holds out no hope to the opposition that this will not continue to be the pet policy of his administration. He avows unshaken faith in the necessity and usefulness of the reform, and believes its maintenance essential to the safety and success of American institutions, invoking for it the support of congress.

Thus with regard to these chief questions of political policy the president occupies the same relation to his party in congress that he held throughout the last session. Having declined to offer any terms for conciliating and uniting the party, the question is will the party go to the president? Will Mr. Randall and his faction abandon their opposition to a revision of the tariff in the direction pointed out by the president and instead of his method of appraising. In other cities specific damages and benefits are assessed on each lot affected by grade changes, and the results are published in the official paper for several weeks before final action is taken in the matter by the city council. Property owners are in this way given a chance to know exactly how the change of grade will affect their lots, what the benefits will be in the view of disinterested parties, and how such benefits will offset resulting damages. In Omaha the steady rise in realty values has caused the impression to prevail in some quarters that no project of general public improvement can seriously damage specific individual interests. The cases so far brought in the courts have resulted favorably to the interests of those who hold this view. Benefits have uniformly been held as offsetting all damages, and the rise of property along the line of improvement, which has often taken place in spite of the improvement itself, has been used to confirm the arguments of the city authority. But let us suppose that there should be a heavy fall in real estate values between the time of entering a suit for grade damages and the day upon which it is set for trial. In such a case the argument which is now used as the mainstay of the defense in cases of this class brought against the city would be turned with crushing force against those who now depend upon it to fortify their position.

As a general proposition, public improvements are of individual benefit. But there is a line where the general benefit is secured at heavy expense and resulting loss to individual property owners. The means now adopted in Omaha to ascertain where that line begins and ends are totally inadequate for the purpose. The council should advertise in advance what street they propose to improve and to what extent the improvement is projected. Appraisers should be compelled to assess benefits and damages on each lot affected and the result of their appraisal should then be published for the information of those most interested. After ample time had been given to appeal from the verdict of the appraisers, the city could determine whether the proposed improvement was beneficial. Time and money would be saved by this change of method.

The Business Situation. Business throughout the country is experiencing the usual advance consequent upon the approach of the holidays. This is especially the case with retailers. In the wholesale departments transactions are, in many instances, on a decreasing scale, owing to the lateness of the season. During the balance of the year jobbers of manufactured goods will generally curtail purchases as much as possible, with a view to the reduction of stocks for inventories at the close of the year. The condition of supplies and the prospects for trade in most branches are favorable for the maintenance of firm prices for some time to come, and as a rule a good feeling pervades the markets. The failures throughout the United States and Canada for last week were 242, as against 216 the previous week.

For the first time in many weeks the force of legitimate demand has been sufficient to overcome the bearish influences

The Corporate Tax Dodgers.

Several members of the charter committee were surprised to learn that the railroads centering in Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Beatrice, Hastings, Fremont, and in fact in cities of every class in Nebraska, have for several years past paid no city taxes upon ninety-nine one-hundredths of their property within the limits of these corporations. Under what we believe to be a faulty construction of the revenue law, the right of way and buildings on right of way, including land used for depots, round-houses, shops, elevators, ground leased to manufacturing enterprises and used for houses for workmen and private enterprises, are not listed for city taxation. Like the property of every other citizen or private corporation the railroads pay a county tax apportioned by the state board of equalization and transferred to the books of the county clerk. But not one penny of tax upon this immense property goes into the city treasury. Every citizen and private corporation may be said to pay in the form of property tax a share of the cost of the maintenance of the city administration, for the enforcement of law and the preservation of order. The railway monopolies who were given large donations of land and money because the improvements to be made would "almost pay interest in taxes" coolly decline and have declined for several years past to contribute a dollar in taxes on property which represents more than ninety-ninths of their plant within corporate limits. In Omaha alone there are 700 city lots condemned as unfit for use, which are exempt from local taxation. Small wonder that the members of the charter committee were surprised to learn of this novel state of things.

This monumental tax dodging is unprecedented. It is wrong in every way and contrary to the federal constitution. It would not hold water a moment after being tested in a fair and impartial court. Any non-resident, paying state, county and city taxes could readily break up this lawless evasion of taxation by the great Nebraska monopolies by bringing to test the question of its justice or injustice as a discrimination in favor of citizens of one state against those of another. There is absolutely no reason in law or equity why the workingmen of Omaha should be taxed to support the city government while the Union Pacific and Burlington roads shirk upon the shoulders of others a burden of which they ought to bear a large portion.

We need a reform in the state revenue law which will take away all excuse for the continuance of this outrage upon taxpayers. The city assessors must be made separate and independent of the county and every dollar's worth of property subject to taxation, belonging to the railroads as well as to private citizens must go on the lists. What are the Union Pacific and the Burlington roads doing for Omaha that we should present them with receipted tax bills for cost, year by year, and put our hands down in our pockets to make up the difference.

More than 200 suits brought against the city for grade damages are pending in our courts. This is largely due to our method of appraising. In other cities specific damages and benefits are assessed on each lot affected by grade changes, and the results are published in the official paper for several weeks before final action is taken in the matter by the city council. Property owners are in this way given a chance to know exactly how the change of grade will affect their lots, what the benefits will be in the view of disinterested parties, and how such benefits will offset resulting damages. In Omaha the steady rise in realty values has caused the impression to prevail in some quarters that no project of general public improvement can seriously damage specific individual interests. The cases so far brought in the courts have resulted favorably to the interests of those who hold this view. Benefits have uniformly been held as offsetting all damages, and the rise of property along the line of improvement, which has often taken place in spite of the improvement itself, has been used to confirm the arguments of the city authority. But let us suppose that there should be a heavy fall in real estate values between the time of entering a suit for grade damages and the day upon which it is set for trial. In such a case the argument which is now used as the mainstay of the defense in cases of this class brought against the city would be turned with crushing force against those who now depend upon it to fortify their position.

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is now worth \$90,000 a year, and he is interested in some business ventures with Ben Butler which promises a large return. He is said to have recently realized \$100,000 in some railroad securities.

The Second district of North Carolina claims, per Simmons, its congressman-elect, the youngest member in the country. He is but thirty-two.

Mary Shakespeare Caldwell, who gave \$300,000 as the nucleus of the proposed Roman Catholic university, is residing in Washington this winter.

Andrew Carnegie has abandoned his Scottish castle project on the mountain near Johnstown. An account of the death of his mother, to please whom he conceived the project.

John S. Staples, who was President Lincoln's substitute in the army during the war, is still living at Strasburg, Pa. He is a carpenter by trade, and an industrialist, and a successful business man.

Henry M. Stanley is remarkable for a broad head, very thick through the cheek bones. His hair is still dark and thick, covering the temples. He is of middle size, weighing one hundred and thirty pounds. He looks like a man of about fifty years of age.

The Springfield Republican makes an earnest appeal in behalf of Walt Whitman, whose life does not reach \$200 a year. He has been very poor ever since Secretary Harlan turned him out of a clerkship at Washington for writing "Leaves of Grass."

Better Take In His Sign. The president might as well take in his civil service list, it is about as misleading as the legend of "Here is English spoken," which one sees in continental shop windows.

A Coming Event. The church fair soon will blossom in every city town. Will it be in the counter at Will St. in Sikeston town. And sell you rat plaudemics. And shaving-cases, too. And empty closet bottles. Trimmed up with ribbons blue.

She'll charm you with her leader. Snide and airy language. And some few dollars. Some pretty little frivolity of a triquet that she made with her the other night at her home at an actual outlay of precisely. One dollar and a half.

Different Styles of Advertisements. Brooklyn Eagle: "The style of advertising has greatly changed within the past few years," said a gentleman in charge of the advertising department of one of Brooklyn's largest dry goods establishments to an Eagle reporter. "An advertisement to command attention must be original. The public have tired of such ads as 'John Smith will receive his orders at his old stand' or 'Blank & Blank sell dry goods cheaper than any other house in town.' The present generation is progressive, and to attract attention one must be original. Old-fashioned 'ads' are not wanted. In former years, even in such big houses as Stewart's, in New York, the clerk at the button counter was delegated in his off moments to write the advertisements for the various departments. Since the present craze has obtained such a foothold many firms head their columns with pictures descriptive of the goods ofered for sale. And then the ad. must be written so as to attract the eye of the reader. If it does not interest him, he is bound to sell, it is folly to say so in the first line. First get your reader interested. Talk about the north pole; say that you have a mine of diamonds. Don't mention that winter is coming and that underwear at this season is not an inappropriate subject. And then, in a confidential way, tell the reader that your goods are being sold at a special price. If you are advertising twenty years ago and to-day the changes which have taken place are marvelous. How many fortunes have been made by promoting advertising in the present age. Beware of advertising in the infancy and I hope for great things in the future."

Calculating the Size of the Earth. Popular Science Monthly: The earlier attempts at calculating the size of the globe were based on astronomical observations. It would be difficult to day to give a list of the measurements. The figures then obtained could have been relied upon, as the units of measurement used by those pioneers have been lost, and could not have been compared with the units now in use.

One of the earlier attempts at obtaining the actual length of the earth's meridian by actual measurement of a portion of the same was made in the sixteenth century by French geographers. The method employed, although very ingenious, was considered perfectly clumsy and inadequate by the modern scientist. The only way of measuring the circumference of the earth with a high degree of accuracy, and attempt at mathematical precision as understood in the present century, and considering the simplicity of the method employed by the doctor, is due only to the wonderful fact that a greater error was obtained in its final result. The measurement consisted simply in driving from Paris to Amiens, and counting the revolutions of the wheels of the carriage, and from the number of revolutions of the wheels obtain the distance between the two cities, which could serve as a basis for calculating the length of the meridian. Of course, this calculation could not be by any means considered accurate, but taking into account the means employed, the result obtained has been subsequently found to be wonderfully accurate. The most curious thing about it is that what would now be considered grave errors and inaccuracies were so distributed that they almost compensated each other, and the dimensions obtained are shown only slight differences from the dimensions given by the most recent measurements. This chance (and no better name could be found) permitted of the same result, with only a small error, being obtained with the crude method, that is now obtained with the most precise instruments and with the most complicated calculations.

The Proper Study of Mankind is Man. The illustrious Pope, if he had included woman in the list he would have been nearer the truth, if not so poetical.

Dr. R. V. Pierce has made them both a life study, especially woman, and the peculiar derangements to which her delicate system is liable. Many women are afflicted with ailments peculiar to their sex, such as leucorrhoea, prostrations and other disturbances, "involuntary fever," bloating, tendency to internal cancer, and other ailments. Price reduced to one dollar. By druggists.

Miss Rose Cleveland has accepted the president's invitation to spend the holidays at the white house.

Ex-Vice President Wheeler, it is now stated, is a victim of hypochondria, instead of the opium habit.

George W. Childs has given Bishop Whipple 500 volumes toward a library which the bishop is making up.

Jay Gould has given his son George, directly on Forty-seventh street, New York, a house in the rear of his own house.

Commissioner Fink is worth \$200,000, and could be worth millions if he would use his accurate knowledge of the stock market in speculation.

Roger A. Pryor went to New York without a dollar at the close of the war. His practice

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES.

How Lincoln, Johnson and Grant Prepared the Documents.

The Rivalry to Secure Messages in Former Days.

The capacity of President Cleveland for hard work, says a writer in the Washington Post, is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that he wrote every word of his messages. His experience last year, when he wrote with his own hand the longest message ever submitted by a president to congress, does not seem to have dismayed him in the least. He writes a small, cramped hand, but his pen moves over the paper with considerable ease, and he rarely has occasion to revise his matter. All the phrases in his writings which have become famous were first thought of. Very few persons have any idea of the great amount of detail which the president accomplishes. All his veto messages were written by him personally, and that, too, in the longest possible way. In returning house bill No. 5,988, for instance, he wrote, "House bill number five thousand nine hundred and eight, I have read the bill, and having given due consideration to the same, I deem it expedient that the same shall not become law." Many of the letters which other presidents turned over to their secretaries are answered by him in person. He has permitted his banking-lawyer friend, George W. Williams, to handle the envelope which informed District Attorney Benton of his reinstatement.

In personally writing his messages President Cleveland differs from any of his predecessors. Lincoln wrote comparatively little of his messages, but he paid close attention to the phrasing. In those days the "bits" and the "ifs" were few, and the messages were more easily read, by his manuscript, which was not often marred by erasures. Johnson who followed him, wrote still less. His right arm was crippled and he could not raise it to his pen, and he wrote his messages rarely, finding a lead-pencil less tiresome. It is said that he did not write a letter in ink after he became president. He signed his name frequently, of course, but an entire letter in his handwriting was worth almost its weight in gold. He dictated his messages to Colonel William G. Moore, who was then his private secretary. He thought quickly, for the possibility of a writing developed the faculty of dictation to its highest degree. President Grant sent eight messages to congress. They were in the main tributes from his cabinet officers, written in the first person, and then doctored together. They were not finally submitted, however, without careful consideration. Grant was cautious and careful, and he carefully reviewed and revised the recommendations of his cabinet officers. He loved to write, and all the additions and omissions of the messages were in his own hand. Writing was one of his favorite hobbies, and his notes were also in his own hand. He could dictate, but not easily, and whenever he wanted to be particularly forcible he shut himself up in his room and wrote in ink what he desired to say.

Mr. Hayes wrote a sprawly, irregular hand, hard to read by those who were unaccustomed to it. His messages were largely the work of Mr. Rodgers, who was his secretary, a man of considerable scholarship. Whatever polish they contained was due entirely to Mr. Rodgers, and many portions, indeed, were written by him in the first instance. The cabinet officers aided largely in the work, and their contributions were used without revision. President Arthur's hand-writing was not so good as that of his predecessor, but he was a good writer, and his words and letters were joined in an easy, running style, as if the writer had done considerable clerical duty. Surrogate Rollins, of New York, it is not generally known, arranged the topics to be treated upon and many of the ideas embodied in the documents emanated directly from Mr. Rollins. In former days the messages were duplicated on manifold paper, and when the private secretary was supposed to have reached the capital—four or five years ago—telegraph or telephone connection with the white house then—copies were distributed to the various correspondents and reporters. Then they were sent by rush for the telegraph and the newspaper offices. "I have seen them nearly break their necks in getting down stairs," said a veteran employe of the white house, in New York, "but they did not hesitate to go through the lower and private part of the building, and make short cuts to Pennsylvania avenue, through the grounds. Others, who were not so careful, were arrested at the city could afford standing at the front entrance, raced down the avenue at a speed far beyond the limits of the law. At the newspaper offices an extra force of constabulary hurried the messages into the office. The public entered into the spirit of rivalry and large crowds surrounded the offices, all ready to cheer the first newspaper appearance of the president's paper under his arm. Nowadays it is different. The persons who in those peaceful times, take even sufficient interest in a message to struggle through its long and unimpeccable sentences, are in a large minority.

A president's message has always been regarded as the most important piece of news a correspondent can secure. In the case of Lincoln, the value of his messages was not fully appreciated. Indeed, it is asserted that Wall Street also. Indeed, it is asserted that the white house that once during Johnson's administration a New York broker, who was anxious to anticipate the rise of the gold market, was engaged by the president's private secretary to furnish him with information on the market, offered \$25,000 to an employe for an advance copy. His offer was declined. Despite this golden desire to get hold of the messages, only two have been prematurely printed, and both publications occurred during the administration of Mr. Hayes. The later abandoned the old system of copying the messages, and the messages printed in advance, copies being forwarded to collectors of customs and postmasters for distribution to newspapers at noon of the day congress assembled. A copy was however taken from his goods and sold to the New York Herald for \$500. It was carried by the correspondent up four flights of stairs to the operating room of the printer, where it was guarded and given into the safe keeping of the night manager. It was then divided among several trusted operators, and as soon as the last word had gone over the typewriter the operator closed the door and returned without any of those electric marks which press matter usually receives, and by him taken away. But the company, it is hardly necessary to add, did not lose its wits.

STATE AND TERRITORY. Nebraska Jottings. Hog cholera is still prevalent in Cass county.

The Methodists of Chadron are building a new school vault.

Liberty's longing is a brass band and fire by grade combined.

A large bridge to cost \$11,000 is being built over the Platte river at Overton.

The new city building in Beatrice is nearly completed. The cost will reach \$50,000.

A company has been formed in Chadron to supply the city with brick at the rate of \$2,000 a day.

The water supply of Beatrice is cut off for a week by the outbreak of the city's manure to irrigate as usual.

The Crete Vidette says, Omaha

showed Church Howe under on the 2nd and on the 23rd she struck a coal mine. A merciful Providence seems to be looking over the Omahogers.

Lingering evidence of primitive freshness cropped out in Rushville last week. A traveling fakir worked a profitable trade in the sale of wooden cups, by the use of which, for drinking purposes, "the maimed, the halt and the blind" would be enabled to consume such refreshment as was guaranteed, and gurgled back till the crop of mugs was exhausted.

The justices of Sioux county are putting in their best lies in a prize effort to double up the county and corner the matrimonial market. In two places the justices offer to marry the first couple free of charge and donate them a chronicle of "God Bless Our Home." Warburton, not to be outdone, offers the same inducements, and adds, in each case, a bottle of paragonia and a cradle.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Parsons, of Fairmont, are the parents of a diminutive boy baby, weighing only two and a quarter pounds. It is a very nice specimen, and a half in length from the crown to the feet, and measures across the back of the hand seven-eighths of an inch, while the nails on its little toes, as the father says, look like small dots. It is now two weeks old, is perfectly formed, vigorous, healthy and takes its rattles with as much enjoyment as bigger boys.

The Lincoln Democrat appears this week in a new suit of fashionable breviter, worn, colored, cut and styled, and tastefully arranged and well printed. This is cheering evidence of Mr. Calhoun's determination to give the capital city an afternoon daily in keeping with the growth and importance of the democracy with crisp and clear cut chunks of minority wisdom from the pivot of state politics. If talented grit and hard work deserve success, the Democrat is bound to get it.

The knights of the locomotive throttle, as a class, are noted lovers of unvarnished truth, but occasionally a Bill Nye is found in the ranks who can whispser out in meeting "I ain't got no head, but I got a tail." On the Elk Horn valley road, during the big drifts of last month, an engineer says he took a mile-a-minute shoot at a huge snow pile and found a hole through it without jarring his headlight. Stopping at the next station he dug the engine's front and sides coated with blood and hair. An investigation of the drift showed that sixteen head of cattle had been snowed in and ten of them were killed.

Iowa Items. A total of sixtynine arrests were made by the police of Cedar Rapids in November.

Proprietor Foster's storm of the 6th failed to materialize. A letter of condolence from Wiggins is on hand.

Henry Schwartz, a railroad brakeman, has been arrested in Davenport for indulging in the luxury of two wives, one at each end of the rail.

A farm had named Ernest Arnold, aged twenty three, living near Creston, who was suffering with bad health, succeded by shooting himself in the forehead.

The city revenue of Des Moines is found to be insufficient to maintain the present efficiency of the police and fire departments, and the expense of other city affairs.

Covers were made for 500 people at the banquet given the Stock Brokers' association at Mason City on the 2d inst. The getting was a most representative one of the farmers and stock brokers of the state.

Investigation into the cause of virulent diptheria at Davenport by the board of health, resulted in finding the cause to be impure water of the wells and cisterns. Ample steps have been taken to prevent the disease from having been contaminated with seepings from privies.

The Hon. John Morrill, of Jones county, died at his home near Anaconda, in the evening of the 1st inst. He was a member of the first territorial legislature of Iowa, under Governor Lucas, when it convened in Iowa City in 1838. He leaves a family of thirteen children.

The annual report of the clerk of Polk county on criminal convictions has just been completed. There were 93 convictions, classified as follows: Assaults of various grades, 20; burglary or larceny, 32; bigamy, 2; domestic violence, 4; liquor laws, etc., 29; selling intoxicating liquors, etc., 3; obtaining money by false pretense, 5; murder, second degree, 1; and other offenses, 11. The sentences during the same period were 23 years imprisonment, 62 years of service, and one criminal for life.

Dakota. A Coudington county is in debt \$40,000. Alexandria shipped 317 cars of grain since August 1.

Huron authorities are bounding the gamblers of both sexes.

The trip for the board of school directors was made in three days and a half only.

A decession has arisen in Brule county as to how many pounds of coal there are in a ton. And the dealers are numb.

The Dakota Bazaar, being called for, will be held in Pierre. It will certify many the cost of keeping it in jail all winter.

Potatoes sell for four cents per pound at Deadwood. Butter is quoted at forty-five cents and so eggs. Apples are scarce at 50 per barrel.

A Remarkable Draw. St. Paul Globe. I was looking over a friend's shoulder the other night, and saw what I thought was the funniest piece of draughting the most wonderful I ever saw. They were playing nothing but jack-pots, and Jim had been lying right along. At last he opened one of the pairs. The man says, "You ain't aiseit, it, and Jim said, 'Jim thought awhile and finally called for three cards. I nudged him, thinking he had made a mistake, as his hand was two pairs—jacks and aces. But he took three cards and the other man bought one. Jim skinned his hand, and I saw he had discarded the aces and kept the jacks, and by the body poker, if he didn't catch two more jacks on the next draw, there would be some lively betting, and after awhile of course he raked in a big pot. I didn't get to ask him for some time afterward why he made a mistake in not getting the ace. He happened to see the other fellow's hand, and found it contained four little ones and an ace. His only chance in the world was to catch two more jacks, and he did it. He was so lucky. It wouldn't happen once in 10,000 times, but he struck it the right time.

Reading and Writing in the Sixteenth Century. The art of reading, says Lord Rames, made very slow progress to encourage printing in England, capital punishment for murder was remitted if the criminal could but read. But the first book which was an account of a solid paper which was stuck on St. Paul's church, and in order to discover who had written it the aldermen of London had the press court ordered to be called upon to produce the words "to see all write who could." The lossing of such an order as this shows to what a limited extent writing must have been known. It would appear that country gentlemen were not better masters than the citizens, for in a book printed about this time it is gravely suggested that those gentlemen who could but write had to be shaming down by putting knobbies in a stick.

The Voltair Belt Co., Marshall, Mich., will sell a new belt, called the Voltair and Electric Appliances, on the 1st day of trial, to any man (young or otherwise) afflicted with nervous debility, loss of vitality, lack of energy, or any other ailment of the kind. The greatest remedy agent ever discovered. Write to them for illustrated pamphlet free. No risk is incurred, as forty days' trial is allowed.