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E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

THE DAILY BEE.

Sworn Statement of Circulation.

State of Nebraska, County of Douglass, } s.s.

Geo. B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, does solemnly swear that the actual circulation of the Daily Bee for the week ending April 6, 1888, was as follows:

Saturday, March 31	20,325
Sunday, April 1	19,300
Monday, April 2	20,100
Tuesday, April 3	19,400
Wednesday, April 4	19,585
Thursday, April 5	19,370
Friday, April 6	19,410
Average	19,641

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 7th day of April, A. D., 1888. N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

State of Nebraska, County of Douglass, } s.s.

Geo. B. Tzschuck, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is secretary of The Bee Publishing company, that the actual average daily circulation of the Daily Bee for the month of March, 1887, 14,400 copies; for April, 1887, 14,316 copies; for May, 1887, 14,227 copies; for June, 1887, 14,147 copies; for July, 1887, 14,093 copies; for August, 1887, 14,151 copies; for September, 1887, 14,349 copies; for October, 1887, 14,333; for November, 1887, 15,226 copies; for December, 1887, 15,041 copies; for January, 1888, 15,206 copies; for February, 1888, 15,992 copies.

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn and subscribed to in my presence this 3d day of March, A. D. 1888. N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

A PETITION is already before that board of aldermen just elected in Oskaloosa, Kansas, to change the name of the town to Oskalucy.

OMAHA has donned her gingham apron and dusting cap and is already beginning the spring cleaning. By and by, after she has got through scouring her streets and alleys, a man will be able to see his own reflection in the pavement blocks.

SENATOR REAGAN, of Texas, has drawn a salary from the public since 1838 when he was surveyor of public lands in Texas. A democrat who has fed at the public crib for fifty consecutive years would draw better than the lamented Jumbo did in Barnum's hippodrome.

THERE was a hitch in the Denver celebration over the completion of the Fort Worth & Denver railroad, which has thrown a damper on the whole affair. Under an invitation to attend the International Range convention a train load of cattlemen from Texas came up to extend the right hand of fellowship to the Colorado cattle-growers. As it was, the International Range convention turned out to be a dismal failure, and the Texas visitors three hundred strong were very much disappointed. To the Texas people, it appears plain on the face of it, that the Colorado cattlemen have no desire to join with them in the formation of a union of range interests. What effect this snub will have on the business relations between Colorado and Texas remains to be seen.

THE senate having passed a bill providing for the celebration at Washington, in the spring of 1889, of the centennial of the constitution, no doubt is entertained that the measure will go through the house and be approved by the president. It is a patriotic purpose that commends itself to all citizens, and the universal desire will be that it shall be made as complete and memorable as possible. It is contemplated to invite as guests of the United States at the celebration representatives from all the Central and South American republics, the empire of Brazil, the dominion of Canada, and even San Domingo and Hayti. As all these states will undoubtedly send representatives there is every reason to expect that the occasion will be one of the most notable in the annals of civilization.

THE outlook for the iron trade this year does not appear to be very promising, and it is feared that a great many people employed in this industry may be compelled to lie idle during much of the year. The very large production of last year left the market with heavier stocks than usual at the end of the year, and as the demand thus far in the current year has been light and prices are consequently depressed, manufacturers are not disposed to actively continue operations. Two extensive iron firms at Pittsburg suspended payments yesterday, and it will not be surprising to hear of others as the season advances. The situation of the iron trade foreshadows a general industrial depression, which would not be exceptional for a presidential year, but which may be aggravated at this time if congress does not make adequate provision for reducing the revenues of the government and disposing of the surplus.

THE death of Mr. Joseph W. Drexel, of New York, a few days ago closed a life that was filled with high and charitable deeds. Mr. Drexel was not only a banker and millionaire, but he also combined the qualities of a philanthropist and a patron of art and music. He strove to better the condition of the people about him by economic schemes. For some years he maintained at his own expense cheap coffee houses to benefit the deserving poor of New York city. He sold coal at less than half price to alleviate the distress of that city. He bought 6,000 acres of land in Missouri, divided the land into small farms and sold them to worthy colonists on twelve years' purchase, the annual payment not averaging more than a fair rent. As a patron of art and music, he established schools, endowed galleries and in other ways fostered the cultivation of the fine arts. Mr. Drexel was the ideal American gentleman who combined within himself those attributes which made him universally honored.

A Coal Consumers' Combination.

There has been organized in Chicago a company which may be the example for numerous other similar organizations in the west and northwest. It is a coal consumers' combination intended to enable its members to obtain their coal at the cost of laying it down in Chicago, plus incidental expenses, thereby effecting a saving of from two to three dollars a ton on anthracite, which is the only coal the company will handle at present. The capital stock of the company is twenty thousand dollars, and it is proposed to issue two thousand shares of stock at ten dollars a share. Each share of stock will entitle its holder to buy from the company's supply ten tons of coal each year.

The company will purchase at the mines, or in the most advantageous market, such an amount of coal as is represented by the stock subscribed for. Should there be a surplus in excess of the wants of stockholders it will be sold at the discretion of the board of directors and the profits placed in the treasury, to be applied as dividends when deemed expedient. The price of anthracite coal in Chicago during last winter was advanced to between nine and ten dollars. It is estimated that coal can be had by the stockholders of this company at not to succeed five dollars and a quarter per net ton, to which would be added for the first year the price of the stock, one dollar for each ton of coal. Had such a company been in operation in Chicago last winter the saving to its stockholders in the cost of coal would have been from two to over three dollars a ton, and the gains of the coal barons and their allies, the middlemen, would have been that much less.

The experience of the people of the United States, and particularly of the west and northwest, during the past few years, as a consequence of the monopolistic policy of the anthracite coal combination, demands some effort on their part for relief. They have vainly hoped for legislation that would put a restraint upon the power and the greed of the Pennsylvania coal barons, and the chance of any redress or protection in this way seems as remote as ever. Only a few weeks ago the anthracite pool determined to continue for 1888-9 the policy that has proved so profitable to it during the past two or three years. Prices are to be maintained, and the production will be limited so that they can be maintained. This policy resulted during the past winter in a great deal of suffering. In many localities of the west and northwest the supply of coal was insufficient, while there were many thousands of families that could not afford to pay the prices for this fuel. The organization of companies such as that in Chicago would give direct relief from the exactions of the barons and the middlemen only to those who could become stockholders in them, but the general effect could hardly fail to be beneficial. Now is the time for consumers to unite for their protection, under some such plan as that of the Chicago company, against the promised exorbitant prices for coal that will prevail next winter. A consumers' coal company in Omaha would doubtless have little difficulty in disposing of stock on the basis of the Chicago company, and there is quite as much reason for such an organization here as there.

Naturalized Americans Abroad.

Again is the government of the United States called upon to assert the principle that a person born in a foreign land, who by naturalization has become a citizen of the United States, is thereby absolved from all responsibility or obligation to the government of his native country and is everywhere entitled to the full protection of the government of his adopted country equally with the native-born citizen. This American principle has been so often asserted, and so far as we are aware always successfully maintained, that it might be supposed no European government would now call it in question. The second war with England was brought on by the claims of the British government that British-born citizens naturalized in the United States might be held for military duty the same as if they had not foresworn their allegiance. English men of war took American citizens of British birth from American vessels and held them to service in English vessels. No nation has claimed this right since the war of 1812, and American seamen, whatever their nationality, have been in no danger of imprisonment, but there has been reluctance on the part of several European governments to concede that the act of naturalization annulled their claims upon a man for military service. They have been disposed to hold firmly to the principle, "once a subject always a subject," which with no less persistence our government has combatted. We do not recall any case in which it has failed to carry its point.

The latest attempt to violate the American principle is on the part of France, the last country of which such a proceeding would be expected. John Feuchier, a native of France, became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1880. Some time ago he returned to France, where he was arrested and enrolled in the army. He invoked the aid of the governor of Nevada, in which state he resided, and the governor referred the matter to the department of state. The American minister to France was instructed to demand the release of Feuchier. The reply of the French minister of foreign affairs was a piece of diplomatic subterfuge. He stated that the minister of war regarded the claim in behalf of Feuchier as raising a question of personal status which the civil courts alone were in a position to settle. He announced that the man could be struck off the military rolls only upon the production by him of a judgment issued by a French court of justice and recognizing in him the status of a foreigner. The absurdity of this position is obvious. The United States has no means of obtaining the decree of a court declared to be necessary by the French minister, and if this necessity should be admitted by the American government France might with entire safety arrest and enroll in the army any citizen of the United States, native-born or naturalized.

Of course our government will not admit any such preposterous claim as that a citizen of the United States, arbitrarily deprived of his liberty and his rights by a foreign government, can find redress only through the courts of such foreign government. It will not concede that the French or any other foreign government shall be permitted to select its own tribunal and its own method of precedure for determining the rights of an American citizen. The question involved is to be settled by the principles of international law, with which a court of justice has nothing to do. It is impossible to say with what degree of firmness Secretary Bayard will insist upon the American principle in this case, but the opportunity affords him a chance to show the country whether he really feels that solicitude which an American secretary of state should feel for the protection of American citizens in foreign lands.

Electricity as a Motive Power.

The most exhaustive investigation of electric motors which has been published by this country is that recently presented to congress from Captain Griffin of the engineer corps. Captain Griffin's report deals especially with the subject of electricity as a motive power for street cars. It was made in response to the demands of the commissioners of the District of Columbia, and with a view to deciding upon the question whether such motive power should be permitted on the streets of Washington.

Captain Griffin sums up the various arguments pro and con in a statement that the advantages of electricity as a motive power in comparison with animal traction are more rapid transit, better service, cleaner streets, smoother pavements between the tracks and rails, less noise, less obstruction on crowded streets, less liability to accident, fewer repairs to tracks and pavement, and diminished cost of maintenance and operating expenses. Against this he states as the current objections to electric railways—first, cost of the electric plant, the fact that horses frequently take fright at the cars and the insufficient development of the different electrical systems.

According to Captain Griffin, the dangers from wires of electric railroads, whether overhead or underground, have been greatly exaggerated. He insists that there is little danger from underground wires if the metallic circuit is complete, and that as a rule overhead conductors carry too low potential to endanger life. After a thorough investigation he gives it as his opinion that the development of different electrical systems has advanced sufficiently to insure the success of roads properly constructed, and notes that twenty electrical railroads are in operation in this country, twenty-one under contract and that fifty-four are projected. "A careful review of the recent developments in electrical railways," says Captain Griffin, "must convince any unprejudiced investigator that the electrical motor is now beyond the experimental stage and well established in practical commercial domain. In other words, it is an uncontrovertable fact that electrical energy offers a much cheaper and far more satisfactory motive power for tramways than either cables or horses. There are about 25,000 street cars in use in the United States which require 120,000 horses for their operation. About one-fifth of these, or 24,000 horses, are more or less disabled annually. In addition to the saving of life which its introduction would give, electricity will give a brilliant light to the cars, ring the alarm bell, signal the driver, and can even be made to heat the coaches.

In concluding his report Captain Griffin suggests that in large cities no overhead electrical conductors be permitted, but that such conductors, with due precautions, may be allowed on suburban lines. He adds that no line should be permitted to be constructed which is not supervised by competent persons outside of the company in order that the slip-shod methods of constructing electrical power lines which have resulted elsewhere in serious and fatal accidents, and which have brought this motive power into disrepute, should not be repeated to the public detriment. He also suggests that the speed should not be allowed to exceed ten miles an hour within the city limits.

This report, which has been published by order of congress, is filled with valuable scientific information and cannot but be of general interest to all municipalities where reform in the present method of slow transit is contemplated.

A PROMINENT contributor to the last number of the *North American Review* says that the United States has too many holidays, which will ruin the country by diminishing the working time of all laborers. He supports his assertions by counting the number of public holidays observed, and finds that "working people waste during the year nearly three months of time." An argument of this sort is both shallow and absurd. No one holiday in the United States is universally observed by the laboring masses, and even if it were, it is absurd on the face of it to say there are ninty of such holidays in the course of a year. The truth of the matter is, that the United States has too few holidays in which the working classes can find relaxation. In this respect the people of the old world are better off. Even in an active commercial country like England the people celebrate as national holidays not only historical but religious festivals which swell the number, and no English statesman fears the ruin of that country in consequence. But articles of the above sort may be written until the end of time without convincing anybody that holidays are harmful. We all feel as if there was an overproduction of good things in this world, but that we have not the time to enjoy them.

THE fact that several women political clubs for campaign purposes have been set on foot in some of the eastern cities may strike the American people as rather funny and novel as one of the peculiar features of the coming presidential canvass. But it is a matter of history that for many years English women, and especially ladies of rank, have taken an active part in politics. Women like Mrs. Gladstone, who is president of the Women's Liberal association, work together with the men in political matters, and have been able to control votes. It is not at all uncommon for lady this or baroness that to peddle tickets and canvass votes at the polls. The wonder is that at exciting elections the voting element treat these ladies with so much respect and good nature. However, when it is remembered that once upon a time the duchess of Devonshire traded a kiss for a vote, the recollections of the gallantry may have a great deal to do in marking the place of women in the affections of an English voter.

THE little sign, which meets the eyes of all travelers of sleeping cars, informing them that the company will not be responsible for money lost or stolen on the car, will have to be taken down and used for kindling. The courts of New York have decided that question by a decision just handed down by the court of common pleas. By this finding it is settled that the sleeping car company is responsible for money lost by passengers while asleep, and that it is the duty of the porter or the conductor to be on guard constantly and keep watch of the sleeping passengers. The plaintiff is not bound to prove more than enough to raise a fair presumption of negligence and of resulting injury to himself. And if the porter goes to a forward compartment of a sleeping car to black the passenger's boots, and leaves no official on guard, it is a fair presumption of negligence, and a cause for recovery of damages by a passenger.

THERE is no encouragement for the advocates of commercial reciprocity between the United States and Canada in the vote of the Dominion parliament yesterday on a question involving this policy. A proposition for unrestricted reciprocity was defeated by a majority of fifty-seven in a vote of 191. The fact that there were were sixty-seven votes in favor of the proposition doubtless shows that progress has been made by the supporters of commercial reciprocity in Canada. It is not at all likely that anywhere near so many votes would have been given in its favor a year ago. But it is evident that a great deal of discussion and work will yet be necessary before the policy is accepted by a majority of the Canadian people. Commercial reciprocity between the United States and Canada is still very remote.

THE Nebraska state board of transportation, which is investigating the competency of the new engineers employed by the Burlington & Missouri, has decided to give the investigation a wider scope. A careful inquiry into the cause of the strike as well as its effects upon business is to be made. The testimony of railroad experts and leading merchants through the state is to be taken. The whole inquiry is to be embodied in a report which is to be submitted to the next legislature. The report will be referred to the committees packed by the oil room cappers and pigeonholed.

ALTHOUGH the United States has a treasury surplus, there is no authority or precedence that it should be reduced for the purchase of works of art for the city of Washington. It is a nice compliment indeed to the memory of Leif Erikson, the Scandinavian explorer, who, it is claimed, set foot in America long before Christopher Columbus saw the light of day, for Miss Maria A. Brown to be willing to make a bronze statue of him. But she should ask some philanthropist of Washington to contribute $50,000 necessary to immortalize the Norseman instead of importuning congress to tax the American people for the proposed monument.

VOICE OF THE STATE PRESS.

The York Times thus speaks on the farmer's trust: "Nothing can protect the farmer from the monopolies and constantly multiply trusts but thorough organization. This is not as impractical as may be supposed. The Knight of Labor organization is found in all sorts of the land, and is strong, influential and powerful everywhere. Cannot the farmers organize as thoroughly as they? What is to prevent a combination so powerfully cemented together, so thoroughly organized and so systematically managed that its executive board can absolutely control the price of all products? If it were desired at any time to hold back the crop in any section of country or to keep out of market any particular article arrangements could be made to furnish money to the owners of the products until such time as it should be deemed profitable to dispose of it. A farmers' union could do this just as well as a trade's union, and the time would soon come when an order from the executive board to hold any crop for a certain price would make it worth the specified price at once. An organization of this kind in the states of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska alone could absolutely control the price of corn. The farmers produce it and they have the right to say what it should be sold for."

The Bloomington Justice, commenting on the strike, indulges in this philosophy: "Six weeks of the Burlington strike have now passed. The company is entitled to all the glory of a long, vigorous fight, if there be any glory in it. The company has sustained a direct money loss of about $1,500,000. It has inflicted a loss on the northwest amounting to many millions of dollars. This has fallen most severely on the merchants along its line who have been its regular patrons. It has besides permanently lost the patronage of merchants who have begun to ship over other lines and not likely to change back without cause after the trouble is over. In return for all these immense losses on itself and others, what has the Burlington gained, or what at most can it gain? If successful it will save in engineers wages perhaps $150,000 a year. At this rate it would take ten years to compensate for losses to date if the road could tomorrow resume completely the immense business which it was doing before the trouble began.

"The strike of the brick and stone masons at Omaha," says the Fremont Tribune, "is a most unfortunate thing for that city. There are a number of fine structures in course of erection which have been brought to a standstill and the material growth of the city paralyzed in the very beginning. It looks very much as if the masons were asking too much. They want $4.50 per day of eight hours work, which makes a large additional cost on the buildings. Men who are on a strike one-third of their time and only want to work one-third of the hours the rest of the time, are a detriment to themselves and to the public. Business men in most departments of trade work twice as many hours as they do, and twice as hard, and no complaint is heard."

On one of the important questions of the hour, the Norfolk News gives down this bundle of logic: "One man's rights leave off just when another man's begins. Every man who thinks he can sing and wants to has a right to sing, but we are decidedly of the opinion that it is not exactly an fait for a crowd of fellows who form about as good a musical combination as lath in the hands of a small boy and a paling fence, and whose voices harmonize as well as those of a town cat and a pig, to make night hideous with their warblings when their fellow citizens are trying to sleep. A lodge in some vast cooler would have a beneficial effect on their vocal powers."

The Grand Island Independent, in exultant glee, looks through its telescope and discovers that "in Omaha, which has its separate city organization, a lively election has given power to a democratic mayor and a democratic council. This result of a municipal election encourages the excitable imagination of the Omaha Herald to see in the distance the fata morgana of a great political victory of the ever hopeful Nebraska democracy in the next fall elections. As they have to feed on hopes exclusively, we shall be glad to see them get of this article all they can possibly lay their hands on."

The Wood River Gazette is opposed to monopolies in glory as well as in other things. It says: "Senator Manderson is proposed as a delegate at large from Nebraska to the national republican convention. Senator Manderson would be a very creditable representative of the state in such a gathering, but he can well afford to let other men enjoy the distinction. He already enjoys the highest honors the state of Nebraska can confer upon him, and should be willing to give other worthy men a chance for glory on a smaller scale.

The Beatrice Democrat, in answering the Fremont Tribune's question: "What has the democratic party done for Nebraska?" says: "Well, among other things, it has kept Mr. Ellis Bierbower, a prominent republican politician and son-in-law of Jim Boyd, member of the democratic national committee, in the office of United States marshal. Of course the party is deserving of censure for this sin of omission, but we are willing to stand most anything to help out our friends and relations."

The Wymore Union, doubtless remembering the election of two years ago, indulges in this grim pleasantry: "The report has gained circulation that Hon. Church Howe will move from his Nemaha county home to Hastings, where his headquarters are as manager of the Missouri Pacific lines of Nebraska. The Union sincerely hopes the rumor unfounded, as it would like to see Church remain in the First district. He is needed here."

The Fremont Tribune muses, on the candor of insurance agents, in this language: "The people of Nebraska last year paid the insurance companies doing business in the state over $700,000 premiums in excess of the losses by fire. Here in Fremont the insurance agencies try to catch gudgeons by putting up the rates on the plea of poverty. It's a pretty thin excuse for bleeding property-owners."

The Oakland Independent, after reading the returns from over the state on the recent city elections, consoles itself in this way: "It seems, from reports, that a majority of the towns in this part of Nebraska have voted in the saloons. One of two things is true, either the temperance people have gone to sleep or they have done the right thing in the wrong way."

In presenting the name of Senator Mikkelejohn for congressional honors in the Third district, the Nance County Journal distinctly says: "We notify the balance of the Third congressional district that Nance county does not intend to be ignored in the coming campaign."

Outside of the preferences for local candidates in different parts of the district, the general expression is for Dorsey, who will probably have a large majority of the votes in the convention from the first, says the Wayne Herald.

The Custer Leader has the names of five farmers who have given notes to the amount of $2,250 to Bohemian oat swindlers. The Leader is forced to admit "that the fools of the country are increasing."

The Ashland Gazette finds that as Ashland is situated midway between Omaha and Lincoln, the congressional convention of the Big First should be held in that town.

The North Bend Flail objects to calling the Third congressional district convention so early in the campaign. "A six months campaign comes too high," it says.

With the few days of spring weather the papers of the state have taken up the burden of life again in demanding that the Fourth of July be properly celebrated.

The Superior Journal insists that tree planting in Nebraska is of more importance than politics, and urges every person to plant trees on Arbor day.

The Albion News is boosting Loran Clark as a "man peculiarly fitted by nature" to attend the Chicago convention in the capacity of delegate at large.

The McCool Record nominates Hon. William Leese for re-election to the office of attorney general, but fears the railway influence will defeat him.

Dozens of papers are calling upon Governor Thayer to marshal the police and drive the "Pinkerton devils out of the state."

The Wahoo Wasp is attempting to boom Patrick Egan for congressman in the First district.

The Seward Reporter favors early conventions to nominate congressional candidates.

Gould's Pedigree.

Minneapolis Tribune.

We look for Mr. Bennett to prove that Mr. Gould's maternal grandmother stole soap grease from her nearest neighbor, and then borowed ashes to make the necessary lye.

Donnelly to Keely.

Chicago Tribune.

My Dear Keely: Don't part with the secret of your motor for less that $4.50 per copy, cloth binding. Fraternally yours,

I. DONNELLY.

Worse Than a "Scab."

Boston Globe.

The "Q." strikers are orderly men, but they do not recognize the authority of the Pinkertons. A man who will shoot striking employes at so much per diem is much worse than a "scab."

Carnot's Easter Eggs.

Chicago News.

The situation in France: President Carnot sent General Boulanger an easter egg. The general placed it in an incubator labeled "public opinion." From it was hatched a crisis.

Mr. Powderly's Plan.

Philadelphia Record.

And now Mr. Powderly, who has been convinced for years of the futility of strikes to attain the objects set forth in the principles of the organization of the Knights of Labor, has at length formally appealed to the order to enter upon the work of educating its members to a better knowledge of the true relations of labor and capital and of workingmen's organizations to the industrial development of the national resources. No one knows so well as the general master of the knights how difficult and how slow and tedious of accomplishment must be the task which he thus proposes.

The Rebel Orator.

Springfield Republican.

We do not wonder that the Pall Mall Gazette asks: "Who is the rebel orator to-day?" after reading the speech of John Bright at the Chamberlain reception. If Bright did not invite Canada to cut off from the empire and seek admission to the United States, he at least made it apparent that he would not take the trouble to oppose such a scheme.

Wyoming Oil Notes.

LANDER, Wyo., April 4.—[Correspondence of the BEE]—As boring progresses at the east end of the Wyoming oil field, the indications and great depth of shole tend to show that the oil sand is reached at a much greater depth than at the west end where the sand is above the shole. If this should prove true generally then the Lander wells will, in this respect, be identical with those in the vicinity of Oil Creek, Pa., while the deeper wells of the Rattlesnake region may take rank with the Washington county, Pa., gushers. On Beaver creek, in Fremont county, two weeks ago Jared Sessions found an oil spring yielding an amber colored oil that burns in an ordinary kerosine lamp without any refining. There is a similar grade of oil at Smith's Ferry on the Ohio river below Pittsburg which has been used for years.

A party of oil prospectors is being made up at Girard, Pa., to make a tour through Wyoming in May. Girard is on Lake Erie, the home of the late Dan Rice of circus fame, and of many wealthy oil producers.

Forty acres on the south fork of Powder river, containing a rich oil spring, sold for $2,000 cash last month. H. Moreton, of Denver, was the buyer.

The recorder's office of Rattlesnake district is doing quite a land office business in transferring oil claims.

Two rigs are contracted for to go up in town 33, ranges 85 and 86, in Rattlesnake district, as soon as teaming will permit the hauling of boiler and engine.

There is no diminution of the flow of gas at the Shoshone wells.

A bed of astestos as fine as that of Corsica, has come to light in the Sweetwater range. It is a fine delicate fibre, white and silky. The ancients wove this material into cloth, and to clean garments made of it, threw them into the fire from whence they came out purified. Ashes from the funeral pile were also preserved in it. The coarser grades of woven astestos are extensively used in both Europe and this country for fire proof drop curtains in theatres, and has been introduced for firemen's clothes. A very large trade is also carried on in this material for paints and steam packing.

HOW THEY VOTE IN AUSTRALIA.

Points In Which It Differs From the American Plan.

Australia is a vaguely known land and the citizens of free and progressive America, accustomed to consider themselves "ahead of all creation" in everything, are not prone to look to the smallest of continents and the youngest of civilized peoples for advice in matters of social or political conduct. Yet Australia, though it is a province and not a nation, and though it began its social existence as a colony for exiled criminals, and though it is situated at the remote and uttermost end of earth can teach some things of importance to the great republic.

Perhaps the "Australian system" of voting at popular elections is not entirely free from objectional features, but unprejudiced consideration of its chief features must result in an acknowledgement that it is successful in doing away with the most glaring evils of the "American system." Suppose, for instance, that today Kansas City were Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, and that you were a properly authenticated voter. Your name is on the registry list without your having put it there. The government has sent around canvassers, sworn to honesty, who have visited every house in the city to obtain lists of the names of duly qualified voters. By this means few errors are made that are not easily rectified.

When you go to vote you give your name and address to the sworn polling clerk. He refers to the registry list and hands you a card bearing the number of your name in the list. You pass into an enclosure and there meet another sworn polling clerk, who hands you a voting ticket printed by government authority, at government expense, and bearing an official stamp and number. It contains the names of all the duly qualified and regularly nominated candidates, of all parties, in alphabetical order. You then go into a private compartment with a swing door, where there are red chalk pencils, and cross of all but the names you wish to vote for. Then, with your folded ballot, you pass into the presence of the sworn supervisor and the sworn judges—one representing the candidates of each political party. The supervisor sits in front of a table on which is a large heavy iron box locked and sealed. He satisfies himself from the outward appearance of the ballot as you drop it into the slit that it bears the official stamp, though it would not be counted if it did not. You have voted.

The polls close at 4 o'clock. The boxes are opened in the presence of the proper officers and the result is soon after made known. There is no peddling of tickets. The government prints the only voting list that is accepted. "Bulldozing" is unavailable because it is impossible for anybody except the voter himself to know how he has voted. Ballots accidentally spoilt by the voter may be exchanged for others, the supervisor carefully preserving the damaged sheet until after the count. "Ballot-box stuffing" is simply impossible. The official stamp impressed upon the numbered ballot is different for each election and the seal with which it is made is not perfected until the morning of election. Misconduct on the part of supervisors, judges or clerks is punished with two years in the penitentiary. "Heelers" and "ward-workers" are unknown about the polls.

This is the system of voting originally used in Australia and now, with some slight modifications, in vogue in Great Britain.

Don't Mind Me.

The millionaire was dying and all the weeping relatives had gathered around his bed to hear his last words. Presently he raised his head from the pillow and glanced about him. Then he fell back, and, to the amazement of all, laughed merrily. "Don't mind me," he chuckled, after he had partially succeeded in controlling his mirth. "I was only thinking what fun all of you would have trying to break my will. Rush the funeral so as to get me out of the way, and then wade in and enjoy yourselves. Sorry I can't be with you to hear the insanity evidence and all the rest of it. Hope you'll have a good time." Then he shut his eyes, chuckled feebly, and was silent. The doctor said: "It's all over."

Failures in the Iron Trade.

PITTSBURG, April 7.—Owing to the depression in trade and labor troubles which caused a stoppage of mills for nearly four months, the Ellis Iron and Bolt company, limited, and the Continental Tube company have suspended payment. Their liabilities are $527,000, and their assets, consisting of valuable manufacturing sites, mills, etc., amount to over $900,000. The two mills when in full operation employed 800 men. It is thought the creditors will grant the firms an extension.

THE NIGHT SCHOOLS OF OMAHA

They are Growing in Efficiency and Public Appreciation.

ABOUT ONE THOUSAND PUPILS.

What a Visitor Saw and Heard at the Cass Street Night School Friday Evening—A Worthy Enterprise.

Successful Schools.

There are about one thousand pupils in the night schools of Omaha. They are flourishing splendidly under the wider appreciation which has been accorded them by the public, and under the wise direction of the public school board.

Some time ago the board of education started a scheme of holding evening classes in several of the large public schools, with a view to instilling the rudiments of education into the minds of those who were anxious to improve themselves intellectually and make up for any deficiency in their education. The results were not encouraging, and did not warrant the amount of expense that such an enterprise entailed. This was in a measure due to the teachers then employed, who, not being specially trained, were incapable of imparting knowledge to the eager minds of their pupils.

At the commencement of this year a new plan was instituted by the board of education who confined themselves to day school teachers and thus had responsible, reliable persons with a thorough training for teaching. Herein lies the success of the night schools of Omaha. On this new footing they were once more put into working order on the petition however, of at least thirty bona fide pupils, and should the attendance have fallen below fifteen the doors were to be closed.

A class room in Cass street school was the first to be lit up and going on the principal of inference from past to future, the teacher who presided was afraid that few would take the advantages offered, but it proved an example to the contrary for the room was so thoroughly packed that more space and more teachers were required. Other schools followed suit and at the present time Omaha has some eight of her public schools affording facilities for evening study.

A reporter of the BEE happened along Cass street the other evening about 7 p. m., and seeing a mixed assemblage of people about the doors of the school, black and white, young and old, of all sexes and nationalities, thought he would take a "peep in" and see what was going on. He lingered about till most of them had entered the various class rooms on the second floor of the building. At last, he timidly entered a room in which some twenty scholars were seated, engaged in reading and spelling. The reading, a verse or two of which was read by each in turn, was most interesting especially to hear the difference of accent and pronounciation and watch the degree of aptitude each scholar displayed in handling the English language. In some cases the "th" as in "through" sounded like "true," the "j" as in "jampot," as "yampot," and the "w" in "wickedness" as "v." After the reading was finished a question in arithmetic was given out, and then an opportunity of having a few minutes' conversation with the teacher was had.

"My pupils," she said, "embrace almost all nationalities, and they come here to learn what they have most need of viz.—the three R's—reading, writing and arithmetic. The majority of them are busy during the day working hard with their hands for an existence in the world—some in workshops, other as messengers, several as servant girls. That woman sitting over there is married; has a young family, and recognizing the necessity for bettering her education she has come here regularly every night, and is fast gathering in material for the future good of her offspring. They are not graded as a class, each one works for himself or herself, and thus they do not impede each other's progress.

The teacher told a rather amusing incident: One evening as her class was too full she wanted to transfer a colored man to another room. As he was leaving he remarked that "he had been knocked about from pillar to post, and he didn't believe he would ever learn much on the leap."

In the next room a number of pupils were busily at work, some in reading, others in writing and others again fighting hard over a sum in addition or division. This set were not so far advanced as those first seen. The greater proportion of them were "curly heads," and one rather elderly woman, while stammering out a portion from the second Electric reader, came to a complete standstill at the word "stretch." For the life of her she couldn't get the word out. What did the teacher do? "Mrs. Jacobs," she said, "what do you do when you pull a piece of elastic so?" suiting the action to the word. "Why, you stretch to be sure," was the reply. At last she had grasped it.

"I used to have in this room a couple well on in life," said the teacher. "They've been absent for a day or two, having changed their residence, but formerly they never failed to be present even though they had over six miles to walk. When they came to my class they could neither read nor write. In six weeks they were able to master the first reader and write their own names in legible style."

There are two other teachers, also, with large classes, and doing the same kind of work.

The following is a list of the various night schools, the name of the various teachers, and the average daily and largest attendance:

Bancroft School: Teachers—Miss Rice, Miss Halcott. Average daily attendance, 26; largest, 40.

Cass School: Teachers—Miss Pratt, Miss Frazier, Miss Bennet, Miss Eveleth. Average daily attendance, 120; largest, 186.

Castellar school: Teachers—Misses Carney, Nagl, Smith. Average daily attendance, 60; largest, 80.

Center school: Teachers—Misses Roys, Shattuck, Vincent and Rue. Average daily attendance, 65; largest, 100.

Hartman school: Teachers—Misses Atler, Roberts and Mr. Bradley. Average daily attendance, 40; largest 60.

Izard School: Teachers—Miss Dye, Miss Stillwell. Average daily attendance, 35; largest, 75.

Leavenworth School: Teachers — Miss Mckean, Miss Johnston, Miss Hubbard. Average daily attendance, 47; largest 75.

Long School: Teachers—Miss McCheane, Miss Eddy, Miss Lemon. Average daily attendance, 55; largest, 80.

Cass street school is thus the largest and is considered the most advanced. Each receives a salary of $2 per night, the janitors from $10 to $20 per month, according to the number of rooms they have to look after. Text books, paper, pencils, etc., are furnished free to the pupils.

A similiar movement was set on foot a few years ago in Scotland among the farm laborers in the small villages. Successful results were not attained, simply owing to the fact that those who taught did not know how to teach, never having received any special training. It is one thing to possess knowledge and it is another thing to impart it to others in an intelligible form. Those who attend these night schools in Omaha don't go there to idle. Their very demeanor indicates earnestness of purpose, diligence and attention, and when the teachers say they have no complaints, no trouble, no disorder, surely this is something to be proud of and add further stimulus to the work in which they are engaged.

It is impossible to say that any fragment of knowledge, however insignificant or remote from the ordinary daily pursuits of those attending these night schools, may not some day be turned to good account. To know a little, well, one must be ignorant of a great deal.

The Golden Roll.

NEW YORK, April 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—A unique accident happened in the office of the Adams' express company yesterday afternoon. Two porters were busy lugging bags of money to a truck that was to transfer them to the sub-treasury in Wall street, when suddenly the bottom of one of the canvas bags split and 4,000 five-dollar pieces fell on the floor and rolled in all directions. Everybody in the place was speechless with emotion for several moments. Then the porters recovered their senses, the doors were closed, and the clerks set to work picking up the scattered gold. None of the $20,000 was lost, but it took a long time to count it all over and pack it up.