THE DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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SWORN STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION

State of Nebraska, } ss.
County of Douglas, }

George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, does solemnly swear that the actual circulation of THE DAILY BEE for the week ending May 31, 1890, was as follows:

Sunday, May 25	20,300
Monday, May 26	19,992
Tuesday, May 27	19,634
Wednesday, May 28	19,546
Thursday, May 29	19,475
Friday, May 30	19,958
Saturday, May 31	19,999
Average	20,135

Sworn to before me and subscribed to in my presence this 31st day of May, A. D. 1890.

[Seal.] N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

State of Nebraska, } ss.
County of Douglas, }

George B. Tzschuck, being 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 June, 1888, was 18,856 copies; for July, 1888, 18,758 copies; for August, 1888, 18,551 copies; for September, 1888, 18,710 copies; for October, 1888, 18,996 copies; for November, 1888, 19,210 copies; for December, 1888, 20,048 copies; for January, 1889, 19,555 copies; for February, 1889, 19,501 copies; for March, 1889, 20,815 copies; for April, 1889, 20,564 copies; for May 1889, 20,180 copies.

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 31st day of May, A. D., 1890.

[Seal.] N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

SINGLE COPY POSTAGE RATES.

8-page paper.....	U. S. 1 cent	Foreign	2 cents
12-page paper.....	" 1 cent	"	2 cents
16-page paper.....	" 2 cents	"	2 cents
20-page paper.....	" 2 cents	"	3 cents
24-page paper.....	" 2 cents	"	4 cents

THE Omaha guards are giving Kansas City valuable pointers, both in military evolutions and lavish hospitality.

THERE are altogether too many contractors skirmishing around about the council and the board of education.

THE meeting of the State Homœopathic association adds another wreath to Omaha's crown as a convention city.

THE retirement of Congressman Bayne of Pennsylvania after the present term will be a source of profound joy to Hon. Censured Bynum.

CONGRESS has already entered upon its annual sweat, which will continue with slight variations till the ballots are counted in November.

IF interested property owners cannot agree among themselves as to street grades and extensions, the council should leave them severely alone.

THE democratic state central committee of Kansas is about to cogitate on the problem whether life is worth living in the face of eighty thousand majority.

THE carnival of burglaries in the confer of the city during the storm goes to show that the average Omaha policeman knows enough to keep out of the wet.

WHEN Lincoln whisky demonstrates its effectiveness in casting out lizards, there is no excuse for people in the neighborhood suffering from political worms.

JUSTICE to the city at large demands that the mayor refuse to turn the city government into the hands of the mercenary office brokers of the Seventh ward.

THERE is no objection to a marauder's holding up ordinary citizens, but when they flash a gun and frighten policemen, it is time that measures be adopted to protect the city soldiery.

THE decision of the house to insist on the Morrill pension bill is evidently designed to prevent pension legislation this session and thus strengthen political fences in weak places.

IN view of the recent proceedings at Harvard, it is safe to predict that President Eliot will revise his opinion to the effect that journalism enjoyed a monopoly of ungentlemanly fellows.

THE price at which the council combine was organized by the surviving members of the firm of We, Us & Co., was forty-one hundred dollars in cash and a good many incidentals.

THE "dark and bloody ground" in Kentucky and Tennessee has been refreshed by a brace of duels. It is a sad reflection on southern chivalry when the code is revived to avenge with gore the theft of a hog or to secure the fickle favor of a Hoosieress with lead.

THE procession of democratic deficits and deficiencies grows apace. Crowding on the heels of Maryland and Missouri, and surpassing them in quantity, comes Indiana with half a million on the wrong side of the ledger. This must be met by a new loan or an immediate increase in taxation, a prospect which will not be joyfully received by the average Hoosier. Democratic management comes high.

AN exhaustive canvass of the mercantile interests of Minnesota and the Dakotas, made by the St. Paul *Pioneer-Press*, shows a practically unanimous sentiment against the McKinley tariff bill. But one man was found to endorse every feature of the measure. The interviews are confined mainly to republican business men, and their opinions voice the sentiment of the west in general that increased protective duties are not justified by the commercial necessities of the country or the pledges of the republican party in 1888. The country demands commercial expansion, not contraction and inevitable stagnation.

DANGEROUS PROCRASTINATION.

A danger threatens the republican party which must be apparent to all. The party is "in the saddle," having control of both the executive and legislative branches of the national government. It has promised a reform of the tariff, and the country demands that the promise be fulfilled in good faith. All the financial embarrassments of the country are not caused by the tariff, but the debates in congress and discussions by the press have led many people to believe that they are, and it will place the republican party in a very awkward position should it fail to keep its promises by enacting a new tariff law.

The finance committee of the senate appears to have determined upon a postponement of the bill by giving a hearing to all the interests. These interests were all ably represented before the house committee, and it is not to be supposed that they have anything new to offer. This hearing will probably consume all the session and postpone the bill. Such procrastination is full of danger.

JOINT FREIGHT RATES.

The first effort at requiring railroads to make joint freight rates was inaugurated by last winter's session of the Iowa legislature. It had been supposed that the general laws regulating freight rates, enacted two years ago, covered joint rates, but the commission decided otherwise, and in compliance with a very general demand, a special law covering the matter was enacted last winter and recently went into effect.

It appears to be the policy of the railroad companies to fight every effort made to regulate freights and fares and they have now gone into the courts to defeat this new Iowa law. Why do these companies prolong the struggle and keep alive the great contest between the people and the corporations? There never was a more just law regulating freights than the joint rates law, and although the new Iowa statute may be temporarily defeated because of a mere technical error in the process of enacting the law, the defeat, at most, can only be temporary, and will only serve to incense the public feeling against these corporations. To illustrate: The Iowa commissioners' schedule of maximum rates permits the railroads to charge eight dollars and fifty cents for shipping a car load of cattle fifty miles. But suppose the shipment is to be two hundred miles and to reach its destination must pass over four roads, using about fifty miles of track on each. The same stock car is used throughout the shipment and the cattle are not reloaded. Before the joint rates law was adopted such a shipment would cost four times the amount of the fifty-mile rate, while under the new joint rates law the cost would be reduced to the rates of a two hundred-mile shipment, which is twenty-six dollars and eighty-eight cents, making a reduction of seven dollars and twelve cents. The joint rates law provides for the expense of switching in such cases and after that is paid is there any justice in making a farmer pay five dollars or six dollars a car more for shipping two hundred miles over four roads than another farmer pays for shipping the same distance over one road?

The new Iowa joint rates law is based on justice, and the refusal of the roads to comply with it will only bring the subject more prominently before the public and cause other states to join in the demand for joint freight rates.

PENSION DISAGREEMENT.

The disagreement between the senate and house regarding pension legislation has assumed a form by reason of the action of the caucus of house republicans, which threatens to defeat all efforts for further pension legislation. There was favorable promise of the settlement of this question, as the result of the labors of the conference committee, in a way which if not wholly satisfactory would have avoided the most serious objections to the pension measure passed by the house, but the action of the caucus, insisting upon adherence to the house bill, leaves small chance of anything being done at the present session. It commits the majority of the house against making any concession or accepting any compromise, and it is likely to operate with almost equal force in determining the senate not to recede from its position. Any general pension legislation at this session of congress is consequently extremely improbable.

The stand taken by the senate on this question is undoubtedly wise, sound and just. The disability bill passed by that body, making provision for all disabled old soldiers who cannot earn their own living, was approved by the country. It proposed to do what every citizen who honors the nation's defenders believe it to be the duty of the government to do. It contemplated no discriminations and no unfair preferences. It recognized the just claim of the dependent old soldier to the care of the government, and it proposed to provide this generously. This measure would increase the pension obligations of the government between thirty-five and forty million dollars annually, and this is as far as it is expedient to go at this time in adding to this branch of the public expenditures.

The bill passed by the house providing for a service pension in addition to that for disabled and dependent soldiers, would swell the pension account of the government enormously, the estimates of its cost ranging from fifty million dollars upward. But whatever the sum that would be required, a considerable part of it would go to men who do not need the bounty of the government, and to whom the payment of any sum out of the public treasury in the form of a pension would be an injustice to the whole people. Moreover, the house measure is essentially unfair in placing the man who served ninety days upon an equal footing with the soldier who served four years. Many of the former never saw any service before the enemy, never suffered any of the hardships or encountered any of the perils of war, and some never went beyond the boundaries of their states. It ought to be obvious to every fair-minded man that these men have not an equal claim to consideration as beneficiaries of the government with the soldiers who served throughout the war. Giving all just credit to the patriotism of those who responded to the first call for men to defend the government, and without undervaluing their example, it is still to be said that the men whose devotion and valor achieved the victory have the superior claim, and any benefit conferred by the government upon the soldiers of the union which does not recognize this cannot be just and equitable.

The disagreement on this subject is unfortunate for the old soldiers whose condition and circumstances give them a claim to the care of the government which should be honored with the least possible delay, but it is necessary to consider what is due to the whole people, and no man who does this candidly and conscientiously can approve the house pension bill. The senate is right in its position and should adhere to it.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

Among republicans in congress a division is springing up as to what shall be the basic idea of protection, and one element, headed by McKinley, Sherman Hiscock, Morrill and others, are pursuing the policy of a prohibitory tariff, while Allison, Plumb, Davis, of Minnesota, and others, demand a reduction of tariff levies along protective lines. The advocates of eastern manufacturing interests want foreign products shut out entirely, while western interests demand such a tariff as will enable home producers to compete with foreign products without creating monopolies.

It is a well known fact that production costs more in a protective than in a free trade country, and that to let in foreign products free will break down the manufactories of any protective country, and therefore, so long as a protective policy is pursued in this country, the protection must be sufficient to make up the difference in the cost of production in European countries and the United States. The difference in interest on money and in rents must also be taken into the calculations, and to determine what the tariff should be, according to the policy outlined by western tariff reform republicans, the difference in wages, rents, raw materials and interest on investments must be covered by a tariff, and when the tariff exceeds that difference the effect is to enable our home producers to combine into trusts and obtain abnormal prices for their products. To cover the difference in cost of production, leaving the way open for a fair competition between home and foreign producers, with transportation advantages in our favor, was the policy of old republicanism, and that policy is still advocated by the west. It is a revenue tariff based on protective principles, and has for its corner-stone the necessity of raising a revenue on imports.

The new republican policy, headed by McKinley, contemplates a time, not far in the future, when the public debt will have disappeared and with it the necessity of raising a large revenue, and therefore it demands a prohibitory tariff by a large increase in the duties imposed. Its first object is to shut out all competition with our home productions, leaving our manufactures free to combine and make prices of their products to suit their own conveniences. In the old policy a revenue was the prime object, while in the new the prohibitory protective idea takes the lead.

Herein lies the fundamental reasons why the people of Nebraska, Iowa and other northwestern states condemn the McKinley bill. It is not because they are opposed to reasonable protection, but because the time has not yet come when it is to the interest of this country to adopt a prohibitory tariff.

A SIGN OF PROSPERITY.

The commissioner of internal revenue reports the collections for the month of May last as being greater than for any month since 1870, and he thought this indicated the general prosperity of the country. It certainly shows that the people are using more than usual of those articles which contribute to the internal revenue, chief among which are whisky, beer and tobacco, but whether this is to be accepted as an evidence of general prosperity is perhaps a debatable question. There is, however, the authority of the distinguished chancellor of the British exchequer for so regarding it. In presenting his budget to parliament, which showed a remarkable increase in the revenue from liquors, Mr. Goschen referred to the fact as a substantial sign of the prosperity of the people, and this view appeared to be acquiesced in by the statesmen of the house of commons. It would be clearly possible, however, to deduce a different conclusion in the absence of other facts bearing upon the general prosperity.

Happily there are other facts which support the view of the commissioner of internal revenue. The best authorities regarding the movements of trade say that the volume in May must have been nearly, if not quite, the largest ever recorded in any month. The increase over last year outside of New York was about twenty-two per cent, while at New York the exports show a gain of fifteen per cent and the imports nine per cent. This state of affairs would seem to sufficiently answer the complaints of those who insist that there is a general depression of business and that relief is only to be found in a large increase of the currency. The fact is that this business improvement during May was concurrent with a diminished volume of money in use outside the treasury, the increased holdings of the treasury during the month having increased nearly eight million dollars. From every aspect of the situation, therefore, it appears that the legitimate business interests of the country are in a very healthy and satisfactory condition, that the average prosperity of the people is higher than usual, and that the supply of money has proved to be fully equal to the enlarged demand. This is certainly a very encouraging state of facts, amply justifying hopeful anticipations of the immediate future. It is unquestionably true that there is depression in localities, though as to this there has been more or less exaggeration, but taking the country as a whole the indisputable evidence is that general business is proceeding on sound and prosperous lines and that the average condition of the people in their material affairs is higher than for a number of years.

IN THE decade since the system of license liquor regulation was adopted by Nebraska it has spread from state to state and become the foundation of every enactment calculated to place the traffic under proper police restriction and regulation. Its best endorsement is the fact that it has been adopted by the most intelligent and progressive commonwealths in the union, where all other means have been tested and repudiated. Maryland is the latest adherent to high license, and though in its infancy the law has worked a revolution. Previous to its adoption Baltimore had over thirty-eight hundred saloons. Under the operation of the new law the number has been reduced to nineteen hundred. Formerly there was no restriction to license, and as a result the city was overrun with saloons of every grade and the revenue exacted was a trifle. While the new law is only a step in the direction of high license, the fact that it has wiped out one-half of the saloons of the city and placed nearly half a million dollars in the treasury, is strong proof of what can be accomplished when the Nebraska system is adopted in its entirety.

BANKERS report quite an active demand for money, better than usual at this season. Rates are steady at 8 per cent for prime mercantile paper. General trade is very good and collections in the country are readily made, but there is some complaint that the city is slow in this respect, due probably to the quietness prevailing in the building trades and the backwardness of the season generally. The eastern stock market is active and prices are firm and advancing. Chicago produce markets are moderately active, with cereals stronger and provisions weaker. The local produce market was well supplied and business was quite active, but so much home grown garden truck is now coming in that there is little demand for stuff grown at a distance, especially small vegetables. Berries were in liberal supply and in fairly good shape and were all closed out at about the same prices as yesterday.

THE baneful effects of the fee system is aptly illustrated in the mercenary raids of the poundmaster's gang. Notwithstanding the frequent warnings and fines imposed by the police court, this gang of ruffians continues violating the law in their anxiety to capture a fee. Not only do they open gates and doors and trespass on private property, but they have coerced peaceable citizens with revolvers and clubs. It is time that this species of downright robbery be stopped and the ruffians compelled to earn an honest living.

AFTER a month's experience with prohibition in the abstract, a painful wail against the law comes from Yankton and other towns of South Dakota. Outwardly there is no saloon, but the piles of kegs and jugs which cumber the express offices clearly indicate the usual internal circulation. In Dakota, as in Kansas and Iowa, the law is a blow at business. There is no decrease in the demand, but instead of patronizing the home market and building up local trade, the money goes to swell the trade and prosperity of neighboring states.

IN force and rainfall the late storm has not been equalled in this section for years. The area covered was extensive, but only in two isolated places did the storm assume the fury of a tornado. The destruction of the village of Bradshaw and the consequent loss of life and injuries call for the active sympathy of the people of the state. Temporary assistance is necessary to relieve the unfortunates and it should be given promptly. A helping hand in the hour of distress will bless alike the needy and the giver.

REFORM is always commendable. The old council spent over seven thousand dollars in fitting up the exposition building for the police and fire department. The present council has trumped their card by tearing up all the improvements and spending over two thousand five hundred dollars in refitting the new quarters in the Goos building, from which they will probably move again within the next eighteen months.

AS A debt paying nation the United States stands foremost in the world. The enormous burdens piled up by the war will within a year, if the present rate of reduction is maintained, bring the debt within the scope of nine figures. The reduction for the past eleven months of the fiscal year aggregated sixty-seven and three quarter millions, leaving the total debt, less cash in the treasury, at one billion and forty-five million dollars.

THE postoffice department has at last conceded the necessity of providing adequate facilities for prompt delivery of mail in South Omaha. The department is slow to appreciate the expansion of typical western cities. The investigation ordered will convince the chiefs that the number of carriers allowed in 1889 is insufficient for the business of 1890.

IT LOOKS very much as if there was a job on in the proposed tearing up of all the wooden sidewalks that have been laid within two years. While it is very desirable to do away with the plank sidewalk nuisance, it is next to highway robbery to tax a man for a sidewalk and then order it replaced with a costly stone or concrete pavement before it is half worn out.

BEFORE Chicago decides to explore the land of the gaul for antique specimens to adorn the world's fair, THE BEE invites inspection of modern gall displayed by the Omaha council combine. Persistent use and age have given it an adamantine strength that cannot be equaled by any ancient article.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S threat proved a boomerang. A fleet of British war vessels are moving towards the banks prepared to cool the disloyal enthusiasm of the natives.

CONTRACTOR COOTS has run out of Dodlin granite and the city hall foundation will take another rest. At the rate the building has been progressing we may confidently expect that it will be under roof within five years after the new union depot is completed.

Blair and the Windbags.

New York World.

Senator Morgan of Alabama on Wednesday addressed his colleagues in what he called "a brief speech." He spoke for one hour and three-quarters. O Blair, what a fatal influence you have exercised over the senate!

Why Bynum is Angry.

Chicago Tribune.

There is every reason to believe that Mr. Bynum of Indiana will not submit tamely to the tyranny of Speaker Reed in forbidding the sale of liquors in the house restaurant. If he can't get his whisky there he'll go somewhere else for it, begad, sir.

It Can But Will It?

New York Press.

Mrs. General Grant has reiterated her determination not to change the resting place of her husband's body from this city. Now can't the corner stone of a great monument in his memory be laid next Decoration day.

Can Don Do This?

Detroit Tribune.

Now that Don Dickinson has promised to see that the vote of censure against Congressman Bynum is expunged in the sweet by and by, let us rise to inquire how much bigger Cleveland's majority will be in 1892 than it was in 1888 in the state of Michigan! Of course we all know that it depends on Don's "promise."

The Model City of the World.

Chicago News.

Berlin is said to be the best governed city in the world. Municipal reforms which other great centers of population and industry have sometimes contemplated as desirable, and perhaps possible, the German capital has adopted. It has practically solved the most vexing of the problems that still puzzle American cities. Within its limits all things operate with clock-like precision, in marked contrast with the friction and confusion so universal elsewhere in Europe and in the United States, and the manifold annoyances of existence, the extravagance and corruption, the meannesses of partyism, the debauchery of the public service, the self-assertion of the worst elements of society, with us so much a matter of course in our municipal affairs, are in Berlin reduced to a minimum, if not wholly avoided. The streets are of asphaltum immaculately kept. Telephone, telegraph, and electric light wires, as well as gas pipes, are all underground. Supposed postal arrangements, which include telegraph, telephone, and express service, as well as local special delivery by pneumatic tubes, are notable features of an admirable system. A massively built four-track elevated railway traverses the city, bringing express as well as local trains into the very heart of the capital. The street railway system, a model of excellence in all particulars, will become public property in 1911, meanwhile paying a liberal proportion of its receipts into the municipal treasury, besides paving all the streets traversed by its lines. The city gas works pay 18 per cent of the municipal expenses and supply consumers with light and heat at figures reasonably proportioned to the cost of service.

Over ten thousand citizens of Berlin take voluntary part in the administration of her affairs. No suspicion of corruption is ever raised. Business-like economy everywhere prevails. The best men of the city—statesmen, scholars, men of affairs—serve as aldermen, and any citizen chosen to office must serve, under penalty of a large increase of taxes for refusing.

A property qualification, which excludes about 13 per cent of Berlin's voting population from participation in her municipal elections, is an objectionable feature that is founded on the economic misconception widely prevalent, even in America, that the poor pay no taxes. The "three-class" system, exemplified in the constitution of the aldermanic board has the same basis, and it operates to give a small minority of the population an overwhelming majority in the city government. Under this system the voters are classified under three heads. The first class are assessed for a third of all municipal taxes, the second the next third, and the third class embraces all the rest of the tax-payers. At a recent election the voters of the first class numbered a little above three thousand, the second class numbered over sixteen thousand, while the the third class numbered over one hundred and sixty thousand. However, so admirable is the civil service, so excellent are the methods governing the administration of the finances, and so clean and public-spirited are those upon whom the burden of government rests, that the masses have little reason to complaint and the stranger from abroad sees nothing which is not a testimony to the enlightened and progressive spirit that dominates the imperial capital.

American cities have much yet to learn regarding municipal administration. In the main, their affairs are conducted without intelligence, without honesty and without reference to history or modern example. It is enough for them if a particular party or some favorite individual be dominant; the people's affairs may take care of themselves. It is high time that the example of Berlin be studied and that its good features of municipal administration be adopted and adapted to the conditions of the great centers of population on this side of the ocean.

Newspapers.

From a "Topics of the Time" in the June Century on "Journalists and Newspapers," is taken the following: "No doubt the present tendency towards trivialities and personalties will continue until private rights and public morals are better protected by the laws, and until the acme of size and profit in newspapers has been reached. In the race for expansion and power, the leader who has adopted the readiest means has often imposed his methods upon men who would choose the best means. The fault of a lower tone, here and there, is not properly chargeable to the great body of workers, for in the profession will be found today a high average of ability, and conscientious performance of duty; and never before our time have newspapers been able to command the trained intelligence and taste to enable them to do all they are now doing for the development of art and literature; all that the newspapers of today are doing for every good cause, and notably at this moment for that of good government. Capital and financial success are of course essential for the production of a great modern newspaper; but the public has a right to demand that those who bear the highest responsibilities of the profession should issue newspapers which they, as private individuals, would be willing to indorse, in every part, as men of character, refinement and self-respect.

Died Alone in Her Costly Home.

Mrs. Hettie B. Schuyler, fifty-three years old, who lived alone in her magnificently furnished house, 78 North Eighth street, this city, was found lying across the bed in the second story front room thereof, partly dressed and cold in death, says a Philadelphia dispatch to the Chicago Times. She had evidently been dead about three days. In the room with the body were found about $4,000 worth of diamond jewelry, bank deposit books showing a balance of $4,300, a check on Drexel & Co, for $2,000, and deeds for several houses. Mrs. Schuyler was thought to be very wealthy. All of her valuables were easily accessible. No suspicion of foul play is entertained. The coroner will make an investigation, when it will probably be determined whether she died from suicide or natural causes.

STILL A BURGLING.

The Dark-Lantern Gentry Have Apparently Come to Stay.

Two or three burglaries are now of nightly occurrence, and the police force is growing desperate. Three burglaries have occurred since Sunday morning on the beat of Officer Cullen, who is considered a careful and vigilant officer, and early last night expressed himself as being willing to forfeit a month's salary to capture one of the dark lantern crowd. He was particularly vigilant last night, and yet a most daring burglary was committed under his nose. The store of the Collins Gun company, near the corner of Thirteenth and Douglas was the scene of the crime. The rear of the store opens into the alley between Douglas and Dodge, and almost touches the rear of the Hamilton meat market which was visited on Monday night. Two gas jets are left burning in the rear of the salesroom all night and the rear windows open into an office and a workshop.

The thieves gained an entrance through one of these windows, prying it open and breaking the fasteners. A heavy inside wooden shutter was next broken open and the way was clear.

A small show case immediately adjoining the window fronting on Douglas street contained about $200 worth of revolvers. These were all taken. Nothing else was missing.

The residence of Charles Allen, one of the drivers for the Merchant's express company, who lives at 415 South Tenth, was also visited. The burglars broke through a kitchen window and took from the bedroom where Allen was sleeping, his pants, containing $30 in cash.

At Murphy & Lovett's insurance office over Thirteenth and Farnam, the midnight investigators climbed into an outside office through a transom, broke open an inside door and ransacked almost every desk and drawer in the place except the one where the bookkeeper, Mr. Gloenfeld, had a $20 bill and a lot of valuable coin.

Two men are held at the Central station on suspicion.

All the lodging houses and chop houses, in the vicinity of Thirteenth and Douglas were searched this morning, but nothing of a suspicious character was found.

Chief Seavy speaking of the Collins burglary said:

"In writing up these matters hereafter you will be safe in substituting for 'burglars,' 'hashers and hackmen.' The alley in the rear of Collins' gun store last night was patrolled every fifteen minutes and I know it.

"There was a string of hackmen in front all night and two lights burning in the store."

SOUTH OMAHA NEWS.

The Mayor's Appointments—Magic City Notes.

At the council meeting Tuesday night the petition for lights on the L street viaduct, and the license petitions of the Exchange hotel company, Thomas Haley William Kusella and Frank Petulka, were referred. The communication of the Richmond fire alarm company was referred.

Engineer King's estimates of $320.92 for grading Q street from Twenty-fourth to Twenty-sixth street, and $334.55 for grading the alley between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth and M and H streets, were referred.

A storm-water box will be put in at the west end of the Q street viaduct.

The mayor appointed John J. Ryan city clerk, and Joseph W. Edgerton city attorney, and both were confirmed.

The city treasurer's report was presented and placed on record.

Notes About the City.

Mrs. Amanda J. Manson, with daughter, Mrs. J. F. Pickett of Mattoon, Ill., have arrived home.

Frank A. Kline has removed to St. Louis, Mo.

Jailer DeWitt O. Anderson is dangerously ill at his room, K and Twenty-third streets.

The Sobotker base ball club will play the Acme club of Omaha Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock on the Third ward grounds.

Miss Mary Connors of Balcarra, county Mayo, Ireland, has arrived here on a visit with her uncle, Councilman John H. Burke.

Mrs. George F. Kiser is among the invalids.

Beehive Lodge No. 184, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, will elect officers Wednesday evening.

Mrs. O. D. Bratton, who has been visiting relatives in Brownville, has returned home.

Prof. A. E. Clarendon of Fremont is the guest of A. J. Coughey of the Stockman.

Judge Shields Tuesday decided the election contest of Robert Funston against John C. Carroll in favor of Mr. Funston, the contestant. The vote cast was: Carroll, 570; Funston, 523.

Mrs. T. Cushing of Denver is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Geary.

He is in the Hospital Now.

The cheap circus that is doing a turn in the city had Steve Gilman on its pay rolls, and nightly Steve has been doing an acrobat act, but just now he is in St. Joseph's hospital, where he is trying to heal a broken nose and a badly cut face.

Yesterday afternoon Steve was showing off the trick horse when the animal suddenly put a hind foot into the young man's face with sufficient force to forever spoil his beauty

FROM A FOREIGN SHORE.

It Looks Easy to Get a Letter, but See How Hard it is.

"Is there a letter for me?"

Simple enough is the question, but to make the answer "yes" how intricate the work of the postoffice department.

Day and night there are men in the postoffice and mail boats at the different steamship piers waiting to receive and distribute the foreign mails, says the New York Morning Journal.

As soon as an incoming steamship with mail matter aboard is sighted off Fire island or Sandy Hook the postoffice is notified and the mail boat dispatched down the bay to get the mail.

Custom house, quarantine, storms, fogs and all else are ignored. The little boat must get down to the steamer and back to the dock with the mail as rapidly as possible, and nothing short of the end of the world must stop its course.

As a general rule the mail boat finds the steamship somewhere in the lower bay between the Quarantine island and Sandy Hook. Then begins the hard, quick and accurate work of trans-shipping the mails.

Each mail bag as it leaves the ship is counted, and the count of the receiving clerk must agree with the slip received from the other side. If not, then the steamship company is held responsible and must make good, so far as money can do so, the value of the lost sack.

Sometimes, but not often, a sack is lost, and then every man employed on the steamship has no rest until it is found or accounted for.

Some time ago a single small mail-sack from Paris to Philadelphia was lost. Nobody could account for its disappearance and the mail clerks and steamship employes each blamed the other. About two months later fishermen found the missing mail-sack floating in the water off Sandy Hook. It was sent to the postoffice, where the contents were taken out and dried and the long delayed mail eventually delivered in Philadelphia.

There were less than fifty letters in this sack, and it was the smallest among 750 others, but the loss through the carelessness of a ship's purser cost him his position, and the officer who had charge of the trans-shipment of the mails was reduced in rank.

When once the mail bags have been taken from the steamship and put aboard the mail boat they are taken to the dock of the company owning the steamship and then taken to the postoffice in trucks.

Here they are again handled, the sacks being placed in different vans and taken to the different railroad lines running all over the country.

In cases where there is any great deal of danger from contagion all foreign letters are perforated and fumingated before they are sorted and sent from the central office, but even then there is more or less danger, as Uncle Sam is always in a desperate hurry to get other people's letters out of their hands, and they are put through the postoffice and delivered as rapidly as possible.

WHEW! WHAT A WHOPPER.

The Metal Eating Plant is Said to Grow in Africa.

Prof. Schelwisch, the well known naturalist of Bavaria, while traveling with the Stanley expedition in the heart of Africa noticed a plant with a peculiar steel foliage, and on examination it was found that the shrub, although growing like other plants from the soil, was practically composed of iron, says the Philadelphia Times. The leaves, although very thin, were bent with great difficulty and the twigs and branches resisted pressure with a force equal to the same amount of iron, and to secure a leaf it was necessary to separate it from the bush with a file.

While Prof. Schelwisch was digging at the base of this plant for the purpose of making an examination of the roots, the natives crowded around him in great numbers, gesticulating in a menacing manner. The professor desisted from his work and the interpreter was sent for. He explained that this was a holy tree and worshipped by the natives in their fetich religion as a God plant, and that to dig one up would bring ruin and desolation upon the whole village and surrounding country.

Professor Schelwisch offered to buy the plant, and, taking out a handful of copper coins, gave them to the savages, who gladly accepted the money and distributed it among themselves. The professor then returned to the work of digging up the unique plant, but had not made any great progress when the natives again set upon him. Through the interpreter the professor informed them that he had legally bought the plant and intended to remove it. As soon as this message was made known to the savages every one who had received a coin came and dropped it in the hole at the base of the shrub. Professor Schelwisch allowed the coins to remain in the hole and walked away toward the mountain to hunt another specimen.

Next day, as the party were preparing to continue the march, the professor was curious to know if the coins had remained undisturbed during the night by the superstitious natives, and on approaching the metal plant was astonished to find it had changed its color completely. Instead of being a beautiful steel color, the stems, leaves and what was exposed of the roots presented the appearance of newly coined copper coins and glittered in the morning sunlight like polished gold. Upon examination it was ascertained that during the night the strange plant had absorbed nearly all the copper coins, with the result of completely changing its color.

What was left of the coins in the hole showed that they were more than half eaten away or absorbed by the roots of the metal plant. Not only was the color changed, but the texture of the plant had undergone a similar transformation. It was found that the tiny ivy shaped leaves were now easily bent around the fingers, would retain any shape given them and could be readily cut with an ordinary pair of scissors.

Professor Schelwisch succeeded in surreptitiously securing several branches of this wonderful metal eating plant, and was also successful in obtaining a good photograph of it. No further trace of the existence of the metal plant was found until the expedition reached the Uniamesi country, when at the base of the Nkomabakosi mountains a perfect forest of of this curious plant was found. This being an uninhabited region, no difficult ways encountered in securing specimens to take back to England.

A great fire was built about the tree, but it would not burn the least little bit.

American Enterprise in Africa.

The example of the United States in recognizing the flat of the international association, now the indipendent state of Congo, was followed by all the powers in Europe, and under this name with the assent of the Belgian government, it entered into the family of nations, and its illustrious founder is carrying on effectively a model government in the interests of civilization and freedom, writes Colonel Henry S. Sanford in the Forum. Several Belgian companies have been organized and are developing its resources, the principal one of which is a railroad company with $5,000,000 capital, now engaged in building a railroad around the cataracts, a distance of about two hundred and sixty miles, from Matadi to Stanley Pool.

As the American flag, borne by Stanley, was the first one displayed to the natives in his voyage of exploration down that river, so the American flag was the first displayed on the waters of the upper Congo, leading the vanguard of commerce. The Sanford exploring expedition, organized the 28th of June 1886, launched the "Florida," the first commeacial steamer on the Congo, after a year of laborious effort in transporting it, mostly in sixty pound parcels, on the heads of some 2,000 porters. This was followed by the little steamer New York, and at the expiration of its term of two and a half years, was taken over by the Belgian company of commerce on the Upper Congo. On the 9th of July, 1887, was formed the Belgian company of Commerce and Industry, which is the parent, so to say, of the five or six Belgian Congo companies, all successfully working there. To show the growing popularity of Congo enterprises, held in such disfavor when the Sanford exploring expedition was formed, that only one-third of its little capital of 300,000 francs could be obtained from Belgians, it may be stated that at a recent increase of capital of the Haut Congo company to 3,000,000 francs, the public subscription was covered ninefold.

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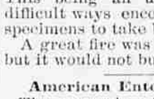

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