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 January 31, 1891, was as follows:

Sunday, January 25	20,020
Monday, January 26	26,780
Tuesday, January 27	26,538
Wednesday, January 28	26,948
Thursday, January 29	26,970
Friday, January 30	26,558
Saturday, January 31	26,514
Average	26,861

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 31st day of January A. D. 1891.

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 February, 1890, 19,761 copies; for March, 1890, 20,815 copies; for April, 1890, 20,564 copies; for May, 1890, 20,180 copies; for June, 1890, 20,301 copies; for July, 1890, 20,662 copies; for August, 1890, 20,759 copies; for September, 1890, 20,859 copies; for October, 1890, 20,562 copies; for November, 1890, 22,139 copies; for December, 1890, 23,471 copies; for January, 1891, 26,446 copies.

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence, this 31st day of January, A. D., 1891.

N. P. FEIL,
Notary Public.

SILVER BROKER OWENBY'S revelations are chiefly interesting for what he is not permitted to reveal.

THE official and final figures on the census of Omaha are 140,452. Now let the colonels rave and paw the earth.

THE European winter weakens a little and admits that the Nebraska climate is too good natured to be further imposed upon.

THE suggestion that Senator Gorman may be a candidate for president indicates to what base ends the democracy may come at last.

IF gubernatorial messages, like wine, grow better with age, ex-Governor Thayer's valedictory ought to be of unusual interest when it is delivered today.

THE real estate exchange proposes to check the offering of promiscuous resolutions by confining them to specific meetings. The change is commendable.

DESPITE the vacuum in the South Dakota treasury, the legislature does not hesitate to squander $1,000 a day in a fruitless effort to elect a United States senator.

DON CAMERON triumphed over his enemies in the senatorial fight, but they have the best of him in the matter of the silver pool. They are making the most of it.

THE alacrity displayed by Speaker Elder in reversing himself is proof of a genuine desire to shape his decisions to suit all members. What more do parliamentary sharps want?

ANOTHER great oil well has been discovered in West Virginia, but as it has already been cornered by the Standard company there will be no reduction from former prices to the public.

IT WAS a trying and thrilling moment, requiring uncommon nerve and will power. Yet, despite a surplus of both, Monsieur Eyraud lost his head in the subsequent proceedings.

WHILE the legislature is in the bounty-repealing mood, why not expunge that bounty of $2 and $3 on wild animal scalps. There should be no discrimination in this variety of reform.

THE inmates of the Norfolk asylum cost the state an average of $5.10 per week exclusive of the salaries of officers. At that rate there is surely nothing lacking to make their life a perennial holiday.

IT begins to look as if some distinguished American public men would get over their heads in the silver pool, after all. The people are about ready to draw the line of speculation at speculative statesmen.

JOHN SHERMAN'S name is now suggested for the treasury portfolio. He has already written his name high in the annals of that department and could add nothing to his fame as a financier by another service.

A FEW Nebraska and Iowa cities receive small amounts for public buildings in the sundry civil appropriation bill. Considering the number of treasury watchdogs awake in congress, western cities have reason to be thankful for small favors.

IT is notable that in this season of radical statesmanship Governor Francis of Missouri has made quite a reputation by advocating good wagon roads for his state. This issue appeals peculiarly to the horse sense of the public. It is being generally endorsed and is more useful than a proposition to make everybody rich by the magic of legislation.

IT is suggested that Robert Ray Hamilton may not be dead, after all. That is an idea that occurred to a good many readers of his romantic obituary. But if he is still alive the fact makes only more pointed the disgrace of his life in New York. When a man is forced to play dead in order to get rid of his reputation he is in hard lines, and something better was reasonably to have been expected from the grandson of Alexander Hamilton,

THE RELIEF FUND AND IRRIGATION.

An Omaha business man writes to THE BEE to suggest that a large part of the relief fund for destitute settlers might be utilized to pay for work on irrigating ditches. His idea is that the western counties would accept relief in this form as a double blessing. It would not only afford them temporary assistance, but would contribute to their permanent success by advancing the work of irrigation in their communities.

There is a good idea in the suggestion, but there are also difficulties in the way which are, perhaps, not fully appreciated. In the first place, the development of irrigation systems in Nebraska must be principally accomplished by private capital, as it has been in Colorado, California and everywhere else in the United States. That being the case, the state would not want to embark in an enterprise which must be completed and owned by individuals or corporations. Moreover, there can be no real attempt to begin to irrigate in this state on a large scale until we have an expert state engineer, water districts and drainage maps. These, together with comprehensive laws, are essential conditions to the progress of this great public improvement. To proceed in the absence of these would be like undertaking to build a railroad without first making a survey. It is possible, however, that this difficulty could be surmounted if the legislature acts very promptly on the bill soon to be presented to it by the friends of the movement.

There is a way in which the idea could be made practicable, at least to a limited extent. This would be by the investment of the relief funds in the bonds of the few companies that now have construction underway, the settlers receiving the money and the company the labor. There are two or three enterprises in the southwestern part of the state, and a few in the western part, that are now in a condition to make such an arrangement. It is this idea which the Omaha business man referred to advocates, but elsewhere there have been suggestions of state ditches to be begun with the relief funds.

All these suggestions are worthy of consideration, but the most cheerful thing in connection with the subject is the fact that the more irrigation we get under way this year the less relief funds we shall have to provide hereafter.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

The supreme court of the United States has not in recent years rendered a more important decision than that granting the British government leave to file application for a writ of prohibition, commanding the federal court of Alaska to annul the proceedings by which a Canadian sealing vessel, seized by a United States cruiser in Behring sea three years ago, was libelled. There were two suggestions offered for the prohibition, one being merely formal in behalf of the owner of the condemned, vessel and the other, which brings the whole disputed question concerning the alleged jurisdiction over Behring sea before the court, being made in behalf of Canada by the Dominion minister of justice, with the full knowledge and consent of the British government. The purpose was to appeal from the secretary of state to the supreme court in order to settle once for all the Behring sea dispute.

This proceeding, if not unprecedented, was most exceptional. Resolutions were presented in congress declaring it to be in derogation of the dignity of the government and the people of the United States, and prejudicial to the amicable conduct of international relations. The administration denied the jurisdiction of the supreme court, Attorney General Miller in a carefully prepared argument contending that the act of congress enacting the Alaska court did not make it a district or a circuit court, and therefore it is outside the jurisdiction of the supreme tribunal. This view is completely disposed of by the decision, in delivering which the chief justice said that the supreme court undoubtedly had jurisdiction in the matter. There will probably now be few to question the correctness of this position. The assumption that the Alaska court has the power to condemn foreign vessels for violating the laws of congress and its decrees cannot be reviewed by the supreme court would, if sustained, introduce a most remarkable anomaly in our system of jurisprudence. The constitution provides that congress shall have power "to constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court," and in defining the judicial power that instrument says: "In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers, and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the supreme court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned [which include cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction] the supreme court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions and under such regulations as the congress shall make." It does not appear that any exception was made in the powers granted the Alaska court, which has been directed to show cause why the writ applied for by the British government should not be issued.

In assuming jurisdiction in this matter it would seem that the supreme court must necessarily consider the whole question of the rights of the United States in Behring sea. The vessel condemned was seized 59 miles from land, so that there is involved in the case the question of how far the jurisdiction of the United States extends over the sea under the rule of international law, or by virtue of a right ceded to this country in the purchase of Alaska from Russia. If the supreme court should affirm the legality of the seizure, the British government, having submitted the issues of jurisdiction to the arbitration of this tribunal, would be morally bound to accept the decree, and the United States government could proceed to enforce it against all intruders. If on the other hand it should decide that the United States has no case, nothing would remain for the government to do but to proceed with negotiations for the international protection of the seal fisheries. The determination of this controversy is therefore practically left to the United States, and at the same time there is established a most important precedent.

LABOR LAWS IN NEBRASKA.

Representative Capek of Douglas county has introduced several measures looking to the enlargement and improvement of the labor laws of the state. It is a subject which, for obvious reasons, has received much less attention here than elsewhere, but the time has come when Nebraska should raise the standard of her labor laws, to the end that her workingmen should have benefits equal to those enjoyed by any state in the union.

The laws of Massachusetts in respect to labor are considered as the model for the country. They have recently been compiled in a single volume, and in this striking form have attracted wide and favorable comment. Several state legislatures are now drafting laws on the Massachusetts plan, and it is quite likely that in the next few weeks a considerable advance in this department of legislation will be made all over the union.

Massachusetts, which has a very large industrial population, began to enact labor laws in 1834, making a beginning by abolishing imprisonment for debt when the amount due was less than $50. It went swiftly forward in framing laws to provide for the education of children employed in factories and encourage the formation of mechanics' institutes and associations. By these methods it has accomplished extraordinary results in lifting the intellectual standard of its workingmen and developing the mechanic arts.

In 1874 Massachusetts entered upon another distinct era of labor legislation. It began to limit the hours of the workingman's toil, to protect him against the greed of employers and accidents by faulty machinery, to make weekly payments compulsory, to exempt the tools of his trade from attachment, to encourage the formation of co-operative banks and other enterprises, and to provide a board of arbitration to settle his difficulties with employers. As an indispensable part of this elaborate system for the protection and encouragement of labor interests, it established a very complete bureau of labor statistics. This is the basis for the enactment and enforcement of its laws. In spite of its wonderful advancement in these directions, Massachusetts is still busy with plans for further development.

Nebraska has made some progress toward a system of labor laws. It has a bureau of statistics, a ten-hour law and statutes to protect mechanics in their wages, and to guard the rights of women and children employed in factories, but it is, after all, some forty years behind Massachusetts in these respects.

It will perhaps be argued that Nebraska, having a much smaller industrial population, has no need of such laws as Massachusetts and some other states. It is true that she cannot afford to spend as much money in the administration of such laws as the industrial states of the east. But are the inherent rights of a workingman in Nebraska any less than those of a workingman in Massachusetts? If he does not live in the same state, he at least lives in the same century. He has the same claim to protection in the hours and wages of his labor. The general features of his social life are the same. All his rights as a man and a citizen are as sacred.

The legislature will earn a claim to grateful remembrance if it raises the standard of the labor laws at its present session.

MAYOR CUSHING'S MESSAGE.

The annual message of Mayor Cushing is a comprehensive review of municipal affairs. The condition of the various departments, the work performed during the past year, debt, taxation and valuation, form a most favorable exhibit of city affairs.

The bonded debt of the city now aggregates $1,936,100, none of which becomes due until 1900, rendering unnecessary the creation of a sinking fund for some years to come. The public improvements for which the bonds were issued far exceed in value the indebtedness, so that the investment proved a profitable one. With a balance of nearly $300,000 in the various city funds, with bonds commanding a premium, and with the rate of taxation reduced without an increase in valuation, the financial condition of Omaha challenges comparison with any city of equal population in the country.

But there is considerable room for greater economy in city affairs. There is no valid reason why the city should pay greater salaries than like work commands in first class business houses. It is a notorious fact that the salaries paid in various departments are excessive and unjust to the taxpayers. Nor are they gauged in accordance with the character of the work performed. Incompetent clerks receive as much as expert accountants, and competent men are too often retired or subordinated for a political heeler or favorite. The mayor ignores the fact that incompetency is rampant in the departments and sinecures fastened on the treasury at salaries frequently double what they could command in private life. Thoroughly capable men, experienced and reliable, are entitled to first-class salaries. It is an outrage to pay such salaries to inferiors; it is a crime to employ them, especially in departments which were designed to protect the taxpayers from mercenary contractors of public works and buildings. Political consideration should have no weight in the selection of inspectors when their competency and reliability are beyond question.

The recommendations of the mayor are in the line with the changes contemplated in the charter. He attacks the present law which places the appointment of police commissioners in the hands of the governor, and urges strong grounds for distinct home rule in this department. The experience of the city upholds the present system. It cannot be denied that the law has been the means of lifting the police from the gutter of ward politics and has given the department a character and a strength never before enjoyed. The people of Omaha are not disposed to return to the methods which made the police force the active tools of councilmen.

Competition in electric light and power is strongly urged, also a workhouse for habitual petty criminals and a small hospital for the care of persons afflicted with contagious diseases.

On the whole the message is a creditable presentation of the city's condition, its financial strength, well-paved and well-lighted streets, an unsurpassed school system, reasonable assessment and reduced taxation, reflecting the industrial and commercial prosperity of the community as well as the confidence and aggressive unity of the people.

NEGLECTED LEGISLATION.

A Lincoln letter incidentally mentions the fact that a certain outside insurance company is now "raking in dollars by the wholesale in Nebraska," though it has not complied with the legal requirements.

This item of news will remind the public of the large number of very important matters which the legislature has not yet found time to consider. The insurance laws are in need of careful revision. The people are being daily imposed upon by companies that have no legal or financial standing in this state. Many companies are doing a large business here in direct defiance of the statutes of the state and in supreme contempt of laws which are rigidly enforced against our own home companies.

This is only a sample of the many instances of neglected legislation which seem likely to mark the present session of the legislature as a failure. Unless the session is prolonged far beyond its legal limits it will be utterly impossible for it to consider and digest many important laws which it was hoped would be enacted.

Between the rising and setting of each day's sun the legislature costs the people of Nebraska from $2,000 to $3,000. A large proportion of the days already spent have been wasted in fruitless political discussion and party maneuvering. In the meantime, useful and progressive legislation, demanded by the interest of the people, is being lost in the shuffle.

We direct attention to the insurance laws, not because they are more important than other measures, but because they illustrate how the public interests are allowed to suffer while our statesmen are squandering time and money in attending to matters of no real consequence.

UNIFORM BANKRUPTCY.

A bill providing for a uniform system of bankruptcy has passed the house of representatives and is now in the senate. Whether with the large amount of more urgent matters demanding attention at the present session the senate will have an opportunity to consider this measure is somewhat uncertain, but an effort will be made to do so, and if reached it will probably pass pretty much in its present shape. The measure, known as the Torrey bankrupt bill, received very careful consideration from the judiciary committee of the house of representatives and in the house, and is unquestionably the most complete and comprehensive measure of the kind that has ever been framed. The experience with national bankrupt laws has not been altogether satisfactory, and the last one, passed in 1867 and repealed some years later, was perhaps the most objectionable. It was a very good law for the officials, who very generally derived most generous revenues from it, but neither creditor nor debtor obtained exact justice from it. Cumbrous in its machinery, inexact in its operation, and thoroughly wasteful in its work, it lent itself to abuses which finally brought it into general disrepute and led to its repeal.

The measure now proposed has been most carefully framed, and it is believed to contain all of the virtues and none of the vices of the old law. It provides for thoroughly guarding the interests of creditors, giving to all an equal chance, while imposing no unnecessary hardships upon debtors, and it especially guards against the official plunder of both classes, which was the conspicuously weak and obnoxious feature of the former law. It contemplates, to quote one of its supporters, that the time consumed and the expense incurred in the administration of estates will be the minimum, while the dividends received and the punishments inflicted for dishonesty will be the maximum. It is intended to accomplish an equitable settlement of transactions which are now left unsettled by the varying provisions of law in force in the several states. It proposes that the honest insolvent shall be enabled to secure a discharge from his indebtedness and permitted to again enter upon a business career, while the dishonest insolvent will be punished according to the measure of his dishonesty.

The consensus of opinion among the principal commercial bodies of the country is in favor of the bill, and it has received the approval of a large number of business men not identified with such organizations. Hitherto the principal opposition to a uniform system of bankruptcy has come from the west, but every western chamber of commerce and board of trade of any importance has endorsed the pending measure and asked for its enactment into law. Perhaps at no time have the conditions of business made a stronger demand for a law of this kind than at present, but however this may be, there are always valid and sufficient reasons for a sound, just and equitable national bankrupt law, that will operate fairly to all interests and protect the commercial community from dishonesty and fraud.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR SUFFRAGE.

Nearly half the states in the union, including Nebraska, recognize an alien's declaration of intention to become a citizen as qualifying him to exercise the right of suffrage on equal terms with naturalized or native-born citizens. This is done upon the presumption that the declaration of intention which must be made upon oath is in good faith a renunciation forever of all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince or state, and particularly to the one of which he may be at the time a citizen or subject. That this is an entirely safe presumption is unquestionable. Not one-tenth of 1 per cent of those who take out their first papers do so with any other motive or intention than to remain in the country and acquire full citizenship. It does not appear that any one of the states that give the right of suffrage to unnaturalized aliens has ever experienced any trouble therefrom, and certainly it cannot be truthfully affirmed that Nebraska has.

There is but one objection to this policy for which the least validity can be claimed, and that is that a residence of six months is not sufficient time in which to enable an alien to become so far familiar with our political system as to vote intelligently. But this will apply to only a very small proportion of those who have declared their intention to become citizens. For instance, the law of Iowa requires that a voter shall be an actual citizen. Now an alien may have declared his intention in that state, and after a residence there of four years removed to Nebraska, one more year being necessary to enable him to obtain his final papers. A residence of six months in this state would give him the right to vote, and it cannot be reasonably maintained that he would be any better qualified, whether a man of ordinary intelligence or not, if required to remain an additional six months as a non-voter. Another point is worthy of consideration. An alien who has declared his intention to become a citizen may have voted for several years in one of the states where such declaration is recognized as giving a right to the suffrage before coming to Nebraska. Would it be just to such a person to deprive him of a vote in this state?

There is a proposition before the legislature for the submission of a constitutional amendment requiring all voters in Nebraska to be citizens of the United States. It does not appear to us that there is any necessity for such a change in the organic law. The suffrage clause received careful consideration when the constitution was framed and experience has justified the wisdom of its adoption. There is no reason to suppose that its continued operation can have any different result. THE BEE can see no substantial ground for apprehending political danger from the votes of aliens who have declared their intention to become citizens. The number of such has always been small and is likely always to be. It is a very different matter with the seaboard states and those on the northern border, and yet of the latter Michigan allows aliens who have declared their intention to vote after a residence of three months, Minnesota after a residence of four months and Oregon after a residence of six months. There is nothing at this time to justify the agitation of this subject in Nebraska.

THE BEE does not propose to enter into a controversy regarding the earnings and losses of insurance companies in Nebraska. That the business is profitable is attested by the steady increase in the number of companies. If the business is unprofitable, as alleged by interested parties, it is passing strange that none of the sound companies have retired from the field. But the losses or earnings do not affect the justice of the valued policy act. The law simply provides that insurance companies must fulfill the obligations voluntarily entered into, and makes the amount on the face of the policy the true value of the property in event of destruction. How else shall it be decided? Is the value of the property to be determined by the company adjuster without the consent of the insured? The companies do not object to receiving the premium annually, nor do they often question the value named by the owner, but in event of the destruction of the property, they assume to determine, not the value of the property, but how little they will pay to effect a settlement. The law is not an incentive to incendiarism. It is a measure of protection against litigation to compel insurance companies to fulfill their agreements.

THE January debt statement is a remarkable exhibit of the national finances. Nearly $16,000,000 of the public debt was cancelled during the month and over $1,000,000 more paid on pension account than during the corresponding month last year, yet the surplus in the treasury increased $13,000,000, aggregating $70,880,545. A significant feature of the report is the marked increase in receipts from all sources. Customs revenue shows an advance of $1,250,000 over January of last year, thus refuting the claim that in proportion to the advance of duties the revenue declines. The total increase from all sources in seven months was $27,839,000, and the total expenditures for the same period was $234,474,420. In other words, it cost an average of $46,522.70 per hour or $775.37 per minute to keep the machinery of the national government lubricated.

THE movement to grant a charter to the Brush electric light company exposes the African in the council woodpile. The Brush system was one of the companies swallowed by the present monopoly, and its appearance at this time is a scheme to checkmate competition and prevent a rival company from operating in the city. The council cannot afford to handicap any movement calculated to increase competition in a public necessity, especially when the interests of the city are more securely guarded than under existing ordinances.

THE failure of the congressional mendicant mission is no surprise. Every sensible man knew at the outset that national aid was out of the question, but reckless members of the legislature refused to listen to reason. What is the result? Official force has been given to exaggerated reports of the distress, and these reports have been inflated and scattered far and wide. Incalculable harm has been done, and the state given a black eye for no other purpose than to delay action on relief measures in the legislature for political ends.

THERE is crying need for relief in the western counties of Kansas blighted by last year's drouth. While Nebraska was smitten in patches by the Kansas simoon, she will, if need be, extend a helping hand to her unfortunate neighbor.

A TRIFLING shortage of $5,000,000 between the estimated cost of the world's fair and the wherewith in sight does not worry Chicago. The difficulty is to prevent New York and St. Louis from subscribing the sum.

Funny Bedfellows.

St. Paul Pioneer-Press.

The strangest perversion of scripture and defiance of the law of God seen lately is the text, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," in the New York Mail and Express, followed by three columns of political editorial.

Indians Are Hopeless.

Philadelphia Record.

The baker's dozen of Sioux chiefs now in Washington have already donned the clothes of civilization and taken to smoking cigarettes. In this latter fact there may be seen strong evidence of the Indian's complete degeneracy.

Women Don't Want to Vote.

New York Sun.

Peter the Hermit was not, indeed, more earnest than the woman suffragists; but they will continue to be met with indifference or ridicule until they make more rapid progress in converting women to their views. Missionary work among women, and not appeals to the legislature, is what is needed. Women will be allowed to vote when they choose. As yet they don't choose.

Plaint from Denver.

Denver Republican.

We do not believe that it is a good thing for Denver and Colorado to make the Missouri river a dividing line in fixing either freight or passenger rates. There is little or no more reason for making the Missouri river such a dividing line than there is for making the division at the eastern boundary of Colorado. Rates are no longer divided at the Mississippi. If a through rate can be made from Chicago to the Missouri river without taking into consideration the Mississippi, a through rate can be made from Chicago to Denver without taking into consideration the Missouri. Denver has been very unfairly treated in consequence of this division of rates at the Missouri river. The rate on this side is all out of proportion to the distance, if it be compared with the rate on the other side of the river.

PASSING JESTS.

New York Herald: Sanso—Have you a baseball team in your town?
Rodd—Yes.
Sanso—What do you call your nine?
Rodd—Asnine.

Kate Field's Washington: "And, mamma," said enthusiastic Miss Newmoney, "the walls are finished in the handsomest friezes—"
"My dear," interposed Mamma Newmoney, "don't say 'friezes,' say 'frosts.'"

Epoch: Irish Contractor (to Murphy, who is on top of the wall)—"Phat do ye be doin', Murphy?"
Murphy—"Oi do be layin' bricks, o' course."
Contractor—"Be hivens, you do be still enough to be layin' eggs."

Munsey's Weekly: He—Do you like my brother better than you do me?
She—What salary does he get?

New York Herald: "It's the bait to use in catching a foreign count," said Ethel.
"What is?"
"Probate," returned Ethel.

PERSONALITIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Partridge celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding at Peoria, Ill., last week. Among the guests were three grandsons and four great-grandsons. The aged couple came to Peoria county in 1835.

Colonel John R. Kelso died at his residence six miles north of Longmont, Colo., last week from cancer of the stomach. The colonel was well known from his active opposition to Christianity. He was the author of quite a number of liberal books.

John McMahon, one of the original partners of Flood, Fair and Mackay in San Francisco, and a man who has run through half a dozen fortunes, is now making another one in an Idaho coal field. His career has been an adventurous one. There have been occasions when he stood in pressing need of a quarter, while at other times he could draw his check for $1,000,000.

Rose Coghlan and Lydia Thompson met by chance at a hotel table in Albany the other week, and to the surprise of some observers fell to exchanging reminiscences in a very sociable way. During their talk the fact was developed to an interested few that Miss Coghlan first came to this country from England when a girl with Miss Thompson, playing a subordinate part in a company under the management of the latter.

Snivel Service.

Pat wanted a position under the government, and on being told that he must be prepared to pass a civil service examination, applied himself faithfully to the necessary preparation. Some time later his ambition for public preference seemed to have deserted him, says Harpers' Magazine. "What is the matter, Pat?" asked his former employer. "Couldn't you pass the examination?" "I could that," he replied. "I answered every question on the paper. But," he added, his native wit coming to his rescue, "I guess they thought I knew too much to be wastin' me time washin' windies."

Not Built That Way.

Washington Post.

"I want to see the professor," said a rather faded-looking woman as she went into the gymnasium. "I am he." "Could I offer a suggestion?" "Certainly." "Well, it seems to me that it might be a good idea to fix up some arrangement in the shape of coal scuttles, load them up pretty heavy, and offer a prize to the young man who can lift one the oftenest. It does look as if the gymnasium didn't do much for the muscles you have to use in lifting a coal scuttle."

Way of the World.

"There is a young man," said the clubman, "who is simply going back on all his family traditions and kicking over the ladder on which he has climbed—or up which he has been carried—to the present lofty heights in which you see him."
"That is sad," said the Man About Town. "In what way has he shown this unhappy tendency?"
"Why, his father's money and all that he has was made in beer. He is spending it all in champagne!"

BACK FROM TOWN.

James Whitcomb Riley, in Century.

Old friends allus is the best,
Halest-like and heartiest;
Knowed us first, and don't allow
We're so blame much better now!
They was standin' at the bars
When we grabbed "the kivvered kyars"
And lit out for town, to make
Money—and that old mistake!

We thought then the world we went
Into beat "The Settlement,"
And the friends 'at we'd make there
Would beat any anywhere!
And they do—fer that's their biz:
They beat all the friends they is—
'Cept the real old friends like you
'At staid home, like I'd ort to!

W'y, of all the good things yit
I ain't shet of, is to quit
Business, and git back to sheer
These old comforts waitin' here—
These old friends; and these old hands
'At a feller understands;
These old winter nights, and old
Young folks chased in out the cold!

Sing "Hard Times 'll come ag'in
No More!" and neighbors all jine in!
Here's a feller come from town
Wants that-air old fiddle down
From the chimbly! Git the floor
Cleared fer one cowtillion more!—
It's poke the kitchen fire, says he,
And shake a friendly leg with me!

THE COUNTY ROAD FUND.

Mr. O'Keeffe is Opposed to Spending it in City Improvements.

The council committee appointed Tuesday night to confer with the county commissioners relative to the disbursement of the county road fund in the city limits called at the commissioners' room yesterday morning and met with a very warm reception by Mr. O'Keeffe, the only member of the board who was present.

The request of the council committee was that an amendment be added to the city charter providing that 75 per cent of the county road fund shall be expended in the city limits.

Mr. O'Keeffe warmly opposed the proposition. "You fellows want the earth," he said, "and everything else in sight. The county is already paying the bulk of the expenses of the city. Our last year's report showed that the county paid out over $100,000 in paying for the care of the city poor; in keeping city prisoners; in supporting the district court, all the business of which comes from the city; in maintaining the poor farm, all the inmates of which belong to the city; and in addition to all this we spent nearly $58,000 of the county road fund in grading streets in Omaha and South Omaha."

Mr. Chaffee and other members of the committee advanced their strongest arguments in favor of the proposed amendment and finally offered to reduce the amount to 60 per cent. This was opposed by O'Keeffe and the matter went over until 4 o'clock this afternoon when another meeting will be held.

At the afternoon meeting Messrs. Bechel, Chaffee and Cooper from the council and Messrs. O'Keeffe and Van Camp of the county board met at the county commissioners' room in the court house. O'Keeffe was armed with figures compiled from the county records and at once informed the councilmen that the city is entitled to one-half of the money levied for road purposes, but no more. He then presented the following table, showing the disbursements from the general fund during the year 1889:

District court	$31,854 18
Jail	16,327 65
City poor	17,825 90
Insane	4,793 80
Coroner	1,794 80
Poor farm	14,178 91
Total	$86,725 64

To back up the table Mr. O'Keeffe said: "Of this amount less than $5,000 was expended in the country."

Mr. Bechel urged that the court expenses, or a large portion of them, are incurred by the country precincts and South Omaha.

Mr. O'Keeffe denied the statement.

The question of the amount of money expended for grading and paving within the city limits during the years 1889 and 1890 was discussed. The levy for road purposes during 1889 amounted to $90,000. Of this amount the following sums were expended in this city and South Omaha on the streets named:

Grading Burt and Pleasant streets south of Cuming street	$ 299 23
Grading Burt and Nicholas streets	703 00
Grading Thirty-sixth street, between Cuming and Hamilton	132 58
Grading Burt street, west from Pleasant	317 35
Grading Thirty-sixth street, between Cuming and Hamilton	237 81
Grading Thirty-sixth street, between Cuming and Hamilton	417 48
Grading Bemis park, Thirty-fourth and Nicholas streets	683 91
Grading Bemis park, Thirty-fourth and Nicholas streets	312 43
Grading Bemis park, Thirty-fourth and Nicholas streets	761 71
Grading Bemis park, Thirty-fourth and Nicholas streets	242 66
Grading Park street from Thirty-second street to East avenue	1,437 50
Grading Bemis park	1,409 57
Grading Farnam street	4,207 05
Grading Farnam and Leavenworth, between Thirtieth and Thirty-sixth	2,000 00
Grading Park street and Third avenue to East avenue	1,500 00
Paving Twenty-fourth street from Vinton to A	1,743 87
Total	$ 16,207 17

For 1890 the levy amounted to $100,000, of which the following amounts were expended on the Omaha streets:

Grading Park street from Thirty-seventh avenue to East avenue	$ 1,187.50
Grading Leavenworth	1,303.85
Paving Thirtieth street to Ames avenue	4,003.63
In full in account with city	10,359.25
Paving Thirtieth street from Bristol to Spaulding	3,045.00
Paving district 219	487.20
Paving Thirtieth street from Vinton to Van Camp avenue	1,047.00
Grading Leavenworth street	798.02
Grading Leavenworth street	350.39
Grading Leavenworth street	1,396.09
Grading Thirty-fourth street from Fowler avenue to Ames avenue	625.64
Total	$ 24,745.53

The councilmen listened with pleasure to the reading of the tables and then Mr. Chaffee remarked: "This is not as bad as I expected. Omaha pays four-fifths of the taxes of the county and it seems only just that she should be entitled to 75 per cent of the levy."

"I will forever oppose such a proposition," remarked Mr. Van Camp.

O'Keeffe said he would, too.

The matter was at last settled by the members of the council committee accepting one-half of the road tax collected within the city limits.

This was agreeable to all parties and Saturday afternoon the two committees will meet and enter into such an agreement. Monday the chairman of each committee will visit Lincoln, when they will ask that such an amendment be incorporated in the Omaha charter.

Nebraska, Iowa and Dakota Pensions.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Pensions were granted Nebraskans today as following: Original—Ervin E. Bullock, Loomis; Absalom Hallam, Omaha; Nathan C. Spencer, Ash Grove; Pitt L. Purdy, Swan; Jerre D. Matthewson, David City; Thomas C. Clark, Bartley; George W. Taylor, Holdrege. Increase—James C. Webster, Lodi; David N. Reed, Blue Springs; George C. Huntington, Oxford; Joshua Petty, Wymore; David Watterman, Homer; Charles B. Kemple, Hastings; Jacob Kline, Wilber.

Iowa: Original—William Buck, Ashawa; William G. Ounast, Crocker; Isaac Brown, Ollie; Thomas McCartney, Webster City; Jurgen Blocker, Princeton; William E. Cox, Fairfield; Henry G. Cassidy, Hull; Moses D. Akers, Morse; Sears S. Richards, Edgewood; William Newell, Sutherland; Jerrod J. Beebe, Vandalia; Eli Ariel, Sioux City; Orin P. McCready, Rockford; Melvin S. Rogers, Gravity; James S. Johnson, Bagely; Herman E. Bryan, Cascade; John Patterson, Reinbeck; James Lindsey, Manteno; Albert Dodd, Marshalltown; Henry C. Haynes, Creston; John E. O'Neal, Sidney; John E. Thompson, Massena; William B. Shinn, Jameson; Daniel R. McDaniel, Rowley; John Otterson, Mondamin; William F. Clark, Charles City; David A. Cox, Woodbine. Increase—Thomas Bunton, Laporte; Edward J. Pitman, Leon; Charles D. Gibson, West Liberty; Thomas D. Maxwell, Crawfordsville; Edward W. Grimstead, Eldon; Byron Cotton, Clinton; Elisha T. Williams, Montrose; Maxwell Brown, Bedford; John H. Kellingbarge, Kilduff; John J. Robertson, Hayesville; Thompson L. Hagler, Ida Grove; Charles H. Dorothy, Ottumwa; Philip H. Ream, Camoridge; Amos E. Holmes, Allerton; Jacob F. Cripp, Hopeville. Reissue—Littleton W. Huston, Keokuk.

South Dakota: Original—Milton Church, Artesion City; Benjamin F. Stevens, Hangton; Josiah Baldwin, Bon Homme; Seager F. Smith, Flandreau; Henry Kuine, Forestburgh. Reissue and increase—George F. Stimson, White Lake.

A Dynamite Explosion.

MARSEILLES, Feb. 4.—A dispatch says a number of artillerymen belonging to the garrison of Montpelier were engaged in charging a mine with dynamite when the charge exploded, fatally injuring nine men.