

THE DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
Daily Bee without Sunday, One Year, \$8.00
Daily and Sunday, One Year, 10.00
Three Months, 3.00
Six Months, 5.00
Sunday Bee, One Year, 2.00
Weekly Bee, One Year, 1.00

OFFICES.
Omaha, The Bee Building,
South Omaha, corner 8 and 26th Streets.
Council Bluffs, 117 Pearl Street.
Chicago Office, 317 Chamber of Commerce.
New York, Rooms 14 and 15, Tribune Building.
Washington, 513 Fourteenth Street.

CORRESPONDENCE.
All communications relating to news and editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Omaha, Neb.

BUSINESS LETTERS.
All business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha, Neb. Drafts, checks and postoffice orders to be made payable to the order of the company.

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

SWORN STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
I, George R. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, do solemnly swear that the actual circulation of The Daily Bee for the week ending December 3, 1892, was as follows:

Sunday, November 27	26,030
Monday, November 28	23,334
Tuesday, November 29	23,853
Wednesday, November 30	23,853
Thursday, December 1	23,853
Friday, December 2	23,853
Saturday, December 3	24,552
Average	24,303

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 3rd day of December, 1892.
S. N. F. Felt, Notary Public.

Average Circulation for November, 24,059.

OF COURSE South Omaha is a first-class city as well as a city of the first class.

The council has at last let the contract for removing the election booths from the streets. They never will be missed.

If DAVID B. HILL becomes attorney for the Equitable Life Assurance company we fear that its policies may become unsettled.

OMAHA's herd of buffalo will have to be tenderly cared for if they are to outlive the complicated legislation in which they are involved.

REV. JENKINS LLOYD JONES, a Chicago minister, has denounced smoking as worse than drinking. A man with such a name is liable to indulge any fantastic notions.

GENERAL BOOTH has stated that the "In Darkest England" scheme is \$325,000 in debt. This is a deplorable exhibit of what promised to be a most beneficent scheme of practical philanthropy.

Now that the season of snow has arrived it is a good thing to remember that the only way to keep sidewalks free from snow and ice is to clean them frequently instead of making one big job of it.

THE local weather observer would make a very poor calamity howler, for he is disposed to look on the bright side of things. Fair weather with stationary temperature was the prediction for Wednesday. Blizzards are insupportable.

IT is not pleasant for Mayor Benson to have so many of his vote messages rejected, but as he is usually right, as in the election officers' pay matter, he can afford to be overruled by the council, which always tries to play the grand stand.

THE proof of the pudding is in the eating. When a paper which claims to be a great circulating medium has to solicit patronage by circular and fills its wants columns, which are supposed to yield a large part of its revenue, with free advertising, for people who are obliged to advertise, it is proof positive that the concern has no bottom or else the bottom is dropping out of it.

THE farmers of South Dakota seem to be very much in earnest in their efforts to prevent the combination of elevator men, millers and railroads from strangling the anti-options bill at Washington. Their petitions ought to have some weight, but if it is true that a paid lobby is working against them it will take a large number of petitions to overcome that influence. The attack should first be directed against the lobby.

THE report of the commandant at the Soldiers' and Sailors' home at Grand Island indicates some retrenchment in the expenses of that institution and recommends others. A saving of \$5,000 during the current year over the preceding year, while the number of inmates has been somewhat increased, speaks well for the management, provided that it has not been effected at the expense of the comfort of the old veterans.

THE proportion of farmers in the state of Iowa to the total population is very large. In the census year of 1890 there were 388,517 families in the state, and of this number 226,435 were on farms. There were 144,008 who owned their farms and 99,737 who rented. The fact that nearly half of the farmers had no inebriation on their land indicates a confidence of prosperity. Real estate purchase and improvements caused nearly 80 per cent of the debt on farms and homes in the state.

FOR ways that are dark and tricks that are vain the young acrobat of the F. F. takes the bakery. His latest performance in pleading ignorance as to how to prepare bids for city advertising almost beats his game of bluff on the license notices. He actually sent a message to the council asking for specifications on the advertising proposals when he knew the law as well as the usage. He knew that for twenty-five years all bids on city advertising were based on the price per square of ten lines nonpareil. He had secured contracts on that basis through the old council combine for 1889 and 1890 and did not need to jog his memory because these contracts and rates are all on record. But he wanted a little more free advertising for the *Pike Mill* and he got it.

TO REPEAL THE SILVER ACT.

Senator Hill of New York has introduced in the United States senate a bill to repeal the silver act under which the government is required to purchase 4,500,000 ounces of silver monthly. This accords with democratic policy as defined in the national platform of the party. It is also in conformity with the view of Senator Sherman, who has said several times that the act ought to be repealed because it is an embarrassment to the government and has failed to accomplish what was expected of it in relation to the price of silver, and very likely of other republicans. It is therefore to be expected that Senator Hill will have the support and assistance of the Ohio senator in his effort to secure the repeal of the silver purchase act, and it is quite possible that the bill for this purpose will pass the senate.

In the house, however, it is likely to be sharply antagonized. A democratic member of the house was quoted recently as saying that "the Sherman silver law cannot be repealed unless the eastern democrats are willing to give us free coinage and allow our state banks to issue circulating notes. The democrats of the south and west are bound to have more money of some kind." This undoubtedly reflects the sentiment of the southern and western democratic representatives with very few exceptions, and it foreshadows an interesting contest over the money question within the democratic party.

The admission must be made that the existing silver act, under which the product of the American mines is purchased by the government, has not kept up the price of silver. Its immediate effect was to advance the market value of the white metal, but this was speedily lost and the price went steadily downward. Over 54,000,000 ounces were purchased during the last fiscal year at an average price of 91 cents per ounce, the highest price reached in the year being \$1.02 and the lowest 83 cents. While, however, the law has not been successful, as it was expected to be in maintaining the price of silver, it has been the means of adding over \$115,000,000 to the currency since its passage, and unless there is some legislation proposed which will continue at least this rate of currency increase the southern and western democrats generally will oppose the repeal of the Sherman act.

Eastern democrats will not support a measure for the free and unlimited coinage of silver. They are fully committed against that policy by their course at the first session of this congress, and there is not the slightest reason to expect a change. They will be found equally persistent. It is not to be doubted, in hostility to any proposition for allowing state banks to issue currency. The promise, therefore, seems to be good for an interesting conflict, with the conditions somewhat unfavorable to the repeal of the silver purchase act by this congress.

GREAT CANAL PROJECTS.

There are now no less than three giant canal projects, involving the expenditure of many millions of dollars, which are soon to be brought up for the consideration of congress. One is the Nicaragua canal and the others are two different projects for connecting the great lakes and the Atlantic ocean by waterways of sufficient size to accommodate large vessels. An effort will be made to secure \$100,000,000 for the prosecution of the work on the Nicaragua canal. President Harrison is in favor of government aid of this project, and the convention that nominated him also declared in its favor. It is proposed that the bonds of the company shall be guaranteed and that the government shall control the canal. In his message to congress the president says that "it is impossible to overstate the value from every standpoint of this great enterprise," and this view is taken by many members of congress as well as by an influential portion of the public press.

President Harrison's message also warmly commends the plan of constructing an American ship canal around the falls of Niagara and the opening of ship communication between the great lakes and one of the seaport towns. "We should not hesitate," he says, "to avail ourselves of our great natural trade advantages. We should not neglect the support which is given to the railroads and steamship lines of Canada by a traffic that properly belongs to us, and no longer furnish the earnings which lighten the otherwise crushing weight of the enormous public subsidies that have been given to them." The president only touches upon this subject briefly in the course of his discussion of our relations with Canada and treats it rather as an international matter than as one of strictly commercial importance to this country. The latter aspect of the question should not be overlooked. As the president himself says in another portion of his message, the coastwise trade on the great lakes amounted in 1890 to 28,295,950 tons. The total vessel tonnage passing through the Detroit river that year was 21,684,000 tons, or nearly as great a tonnage as entered and cleared from the ports of London and Liverpool combined during the same year, and it is to be borne in mind that the season for the Detroit river was only 228 days. The estimated freight tonnage for the Detroit river for the present year is 25,000,000 tons, against a little more than 23,000,000 tons in 1891. These figures give some idea of the enormous freight traffic of the great lakes and its rapid growth, and show that there is ample foundation for the increasing sentiment in favor of a more adequate outlet to the sea than is now afforded. It has been intimated that as soon as the canal which Canada is now building at the Soo is finished, which will give that country a waterway of not less than fourteen feet in depth at any point from Lake Superior to the sea, the West and all other Canadian canals will be closed to American shipping, and American commerce going by the St. Lawrence route must be carried in Canadian bottoms. This threat may never be carried out, but it is undeniable that in the emergency of war between this country and Great Britain the lakes would be absolutely controlled by the latter under the present conditions. It is said that the British navy has more than 150 warships whose draught would admit them into the lakes through the Canadian canals.

But it is the commercial side of this question that most strongly appeals to the average citizen. In the west it touches interests that are vital and in the east it is constantly attracting greater attention. Senator Hill and Congressmen in Tracy of New York are making active preparations to get a bill through congress providing for the immediate construction of a ship canal through that state. The proposed route is up the Hudson river to the Erie canal and thence along the line of the latter to Buffalo. The bill will provide for a waterway 200 feet wide, with an average depth of twenty feet. The cost of this great enterprise is estimated at \$130,000,000. Such a canal would meet all the demands of commerce from the lakes to the sea and would be available in the event of war. It would not an canal to railroad extension, which is now somewhat feebly restrained during the summer months by the ineffectual old Erie canal with its little 230-ton boats, which can only carry half their capacity of freight on account of insufficient water.

The obstacle which the friends of the project feared by Senator Hill will first meet will be the question of its practicability. Among those in the north-west who are clamoring for a ship canal are some who say that the route across the state of New York would be a failure on account of the nature of the country, the great distance, and the supply of water at the summit level. They favor going around the falls of Niagara on the American side and thence into the St. Lawrence. The Chamber of Commerce of Duluth has called a deep water convention to be held in Washington after the holidays, when it is expected that the whole subject will be exhaustively discussed by men who have made a study of it.

SUSPENSION OF IMMIGRATION.

Senator Chandler, chairman of the senate committee on immigration, has introduced his promised bill for suspending immigration one year, which it is understood is concurred in by the members of the committee. The text of the measure is not at hand, but it is presumed that it is so drawn as not to interfere with visitors to the World's fair, though it will occur to everybody that there is danger of such a law proving troublesome in this direction. Of course the intention is to keep out the immigrants who come with a view to remaining, but will it not be practicable for some such to get in on the state that they are here simply as visitors? On the other hand will it be possible to avoid some annoyance and trouble in discriminating? However, Senator Chandler and the committee of which he is chairman have thought this matter out very carefully and undoubtedly the bill is so framed as to avoid the possible difficulties indicated.

The object of proposing to suspend immigration for a year is understood to be to avert the danger of an invasion of cholera. There is unquestionably reason to fear that the plague will visit this country next year unless the greatest possible precautions are taken to keep it out. High medical authorities in Europe are of the opinion that the disease will be widely distributed in Europe next summer, and if such should be the case it would be impossible to prevent its coming to this country if unrestricted immigration went on. However rigid our quarantine regulations might be if it was allowed ordinary immigrants not now prohibited by law to come in we should subject ourselves to the danger of a cholera visitation that might become epidemic. From this point of view, therefore, the proposal to suspend general immigration until the danger from the plague has passed is justifiable. Self-preservation is the first law and it would be a mistake, perhaps a very grave one, not to regard it in this matter.

But the motive for suspending immigration must be clearly defined, to the end that the world may understand that it is in no sense a concession to the demand of certain elements for the erection of a Chinese wall against Europeans, however worthy, who desire to come to the United States in order to avail themselves of the privileges and opportunities of American citizenship. Hostility to immigration has recently been assuming a more aggressive spirit and there is reason to believe that it has won favor with men who not very long ago were in hearty accord with the unbroken policy of the country in this matter. It will not be well to allow this sentiment to grow unchallenged, or we shall in a few years be placed in a position where we may begin to realize decadence instead of experiencing progress. This country cannot advance as it should and reject the industrious and thrifty of other lands. Let us protect ourselves against cholera or any other plague by every means available, but no advantage must be taken of a possible danger to make a permanent departure from a policy to which the country owes its wonderful progress and prosperity.

WHEAT ESTIMATES.

Reports concerning the growing wheat crop, while varying greatly in different localities, are generally favorable and the outlook for next year, so far as it is indicated, leads to the belief that a crop exceeding that of the present year will be harvested. This is looking a long way ahead, but the men who make crops a study always begin to predict as soon as the seed is in the ground.

It is stated by the Cincinnati *Price Current* that the visible supply of wheat has now got above 70,000,000 bushels and will probably go still higher. The tendency, however, toward the enlargement of warehouse stocks is thought to be practically at an end for this season, though it may be some time before any considerable disposition of these available supplies will be apparent. There are now about 27,000,000 bushels more of wheat in sight in this country than at this time last year, but the evidence points to the fact that the actual aggregate supply in the United States is about 75,000,000 bushels less than it was then. This is supposed to mean that while the regular warehouse stocks indicate an increase of 27,000,000

bushels the smaller warehouses and the farmers have fully 100,000,000 bushels less than the amount of their holdings a year ago. The tremendous outpouring of wheat during several weeks of the fall has enabled the grain experts to fix their estimates with some degree of accuracy. They could hardly conceive where it all came from, but they are now convinced that the farmers were unloading about all they had, which is probably the true explanation.

NO DUPLEX COUNCIL.

The proposition to create a lower and upper branch of the city council is slightly premature for a city of our present population. Only cities of half a million population can afford the luxury. What we do need is a mayor and council with more distinct powers. The mayor should be the responsible head of the city government. He should have absolute power to appoint the heads of departments for a fixed period and they in turn should have the appointment of their subordinates without interference by anybody except when charges of misdemeanor or incompetency are sustained against them. In other words, the council should have no voice in the selection of executive officers, being purely a legislative body. The council should, however, have the right to investigate and appoint city officials for misconduct and when a majority of that body finds such officers guilty and declares their places vacant the mayor should be compelled to fill the vacancy.

The mayor should have co-ordinate power with the council in the making of contracts, and in case he refuses to approve any contract which has received the approval of the council the only remedy should lie in the courts. In other words, in all cases where contracts are approved by the mayor the contractors' recourse should be an application for mandamus. If the objections of the mayor are found to be frivolous or against public policy the courts will order him to sign the contract. If, on the other hand, his objections are based on legal grounds or in the interest of good government they will sustain him and the contract will be declared void. Under the present system a corrupt combination in the council or a factional combination can override the mayor's veto and destroy all the safeguards which were intended to be thrown around the lawmaking power.

The duplex council would not obviate the defects of the present system. It would not stop the disgraceful trafficking in places by councilmen or the dictation of unit appointments by the threat that all the good appointments would be rejected unless the bad ones could be secured on the mayor. The duplex council would not do away with the dangerous influence which contractors and franchised corporations exert on the council. It would multiply corruption.

The safe and practical reform would be to increase the pay of the mayor and councilmen so as to get first class business men of known integrity to devote their whole time to the city's business and then to center the responsibility for good government, as much as possible upon the mayor by depriving the council of the power to dictate or trade patronage and by giving the mayor's veto of contracts and jobs greater weight than it now has. If contracts smuggled through the council were liable to a check by the mayor that could only be set aside by the courts, hoodluming would be less remunerative to the parties who are interested in public work contracts or schemes for franchises.

A STRIKING CASE IN POINT.

After more than twenty years of hard-fought, complicated litigation with the Illinois Central railroad, Chicago has at last made good her claim to the ownership of the lake front. The relations of Chicago to the Illinois Central in the dispute over the lake front are very much the same as those of Omaha with the union depot grounds. The Illinois Central has had actual possession of the lake front for nearly forty years, but the supreme court of the United States has just issued its decree that the occupancy of this tract of land by the Illinois Central did not convey a title.

The disputed lake front was really an accretion of earth made and improved by the railroad company at its own expense, while the Omaha depot grounds were bought outright by the city and deeded to the company on condition that it should forever maintain its passenger and freight transfers at Omaha. This part of the contract never has been complied with by the road. The so-called union depot has never been anything but a local station of the Union Pacific. The mere fact that the road has held undisputed possession would, in the light of the recent decision of the supreme court, scarcely constitute a clear title.

The lowest estimate of the value of the Chicago lake front is \$75,000,000. Some parties place it as high as \$500,000,000. But Chicago, unlike Omaha, has dared to brave the displeasure of the Illinois Central and other roads, while Omaha is always ducking under for fear that a few jobbers will be cut off from special favors in the shape of passes and rebates.

The vital question of the hour in South Omaha is whether that city has 10,000 population. The middle into which this question has thrown the Magic City is an unfortunate one for its public schools, for it leaves a doubt as to whether it is the duty of the county commissioners or the city council to levy taxes for school purposes, it being an

open question whether South Omaha is a first or second-class city. It appears that the property owners have not been required to pay school taxes since 1887, the revenue from the saloons proving sufficient for the purpose. Now that this source is no longer equal to the demand the question of authority to levy a school tax arises for the first time. Expressions of opinion by leading citizens of the town, as given in THE BEE, show that they are in favor of having a census taken at once in order that it may be determined whether the population is in fact 10,000 or more, and if it is they propose that saloonkeepers shall pay \$1,000 instead as \$500, as at present. This looks like a rational way out of the difficulty. The more sensible thing would be, however, to take the necessary steps for annexation to Omaha.

PART of the president's message is plainly "writ sarkastic" and it cuts well.

A DIFFERENCE IN REPUBLICS.

Kansas City Star.
The French are widely different from Americans. In France President Carnot can't get anybody to form a cabinet for him. In this country everybody is forming a cabinet for Mr. Cleveland.

IS IT WORTH THE PRICE?

Kansas City Journal.
If Canada really wants to come into the union, she should do like New Mexico and Arizona and go democratic a few times. Nothing would recommend her more to the incoming administration and congress.

WHERE TRAILS MIGHT GO GOOD.

St. Paul Pioneer-Press.
So many little anecdotes are about about Mr. Cleveland involving the use of a "d" and a dash that it really begins to appear he must be profane. John Wanamaker should have a nice bundle of trails made for the executive mansion before he leaves the capital.

A CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY.

Minneapolis Tribune.
A well informed Wall street man itemizes Jay Gould's property and figures that the par value of his stock, bonds, cash and realty is \$10,000,000. Under the new tax law of 1 per cent on inheritances in New York the inheritance tax will be \$750,000. This represents Jay Gould's contribution to humanity.

AND NOT AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD.

New York Sun.
The great work of our naval ordinance bureau during the last three years has placed this country in the forefront of nations in the construction of appliances for sea fighting. With liberal appropriations by congress our place can easily be maintained and American prestige in this particular can be made still more conspicuous.

AN EXPLODED THEORY.

Chicago Tribune.
The bombardment of the skies above Texas, paid for by the people of the United States through the medium of the national treasury, has ended in failure. The final test lasted from sunset to sunrise, and the noise of the explosion was heard at a distance of thirty miles. Some clouds gathered overhead, but they yielded no rain, though a trace of moisture was observed at a point in the vicinity. Everybody who witnessed the experiment, except General Dryden and his backers, seems to have been convinced that the effort failed to help the theory. Those who are committed to it claim to the contrary, and state it to be the intention to experiment in South Dakota next year. It is fair to presume that this will be done if a fresh appropriation be made, and not otherwise. The chances for such an appropriation are not flattering. Possibly the country has seen the last of these abortive attempts at raimaking—for the present.

FLOATING BITS OF FUN.

Chicago Tribune.
I am very Canada—but we might not agree. I am unknown quantity, you know.
Bold Uncle Sam—Yes, but I think you'll suit me to an X.

New Orleans Picayune.
The plaster is made porous so that a sigh of relief from pain can go through it.

Philadelphia Times.
It is quite possible for folks to be intellectually without being light-headed.

Atchison Globe.
Sixteen-year-old girls are a great torture. They are so pretty, and people can't see them as often as they want to.

New York Press.
Bright—She's a man hater. Blah—Oh, what a pity. I'm sorry you're not a man hater. Bright—Oh, you're all right. The fact that she's a man hater doesn't bar you from her favor.

THE BROWN VASSAL.

Boston Courier.
"What is the matter with that hen?"
"Said Boston lady's guest."
When she observed a chicken fowl.
The farmer had impressed.
"I think," the Hubbs quick replied,
"into the other turning."
"The gallinaceous female has
A secondary yearning."

Galesville News.
The bald-headed astronomer with opera glasses is the greatest snorer.

Dallas News.
Sometimes a very combative critic takes up more cudgels than he can handle.

Binghamton Leader.
Ice is generally what it is cracked up to be when a bartender manipulates it.

Chicago Tribune.
Rivers (at the play)—"That fellow indicates a drunken man to perfection."
Barker—"He does make a pretty good stagger at it."

A POPULAR FLOWER.
New York Press.
He used to call her a rosebud fair,
But the compliment she received
With a rather weary and listless air,
And his heart was often grieved.
But now he is far from being glib,
For his praise is no longer slighted;
He had her a sweet girl christened him
Today, and she's just delighted.

SLEIGHING TIME.

New Haven Post.
Old Ben hung out his shingle,
The merry sleigh bells jingled.
And the avenues are filled with flying steeds;
Old-fashioned puns and drays
Side by side with handsome sleighs
Perform tremendous prodigies and deeds.

There's a queer young fellow
With a broken down old yellow
Hill the little stout boys cry him from the
walk.
But there's a little girl to face it
And among his better race it,
Though he's sure to be the last to cross the
char.

Here comes the lean year girl,
Treating "Chaw" to a whiff,
Next a grocery clerk who's happened out this
city politician,
Along with men of birth and station,
Mid the jingling of the giddy and the gay.

Happy the time this snowy weather,
And the rich and poor together
May enjoy it, for it comes to cheer us all.
When it's gone we recall with pleasure
The jolly ringing measure
Of the bells that fill the air with rhythmic call.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder
ABSOLUTELY PURE

DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION

Western Farmers Think a Combine Controls the Price of Wheat.

THEY DESIRE THE SENATE'S ATTENTION

Consideration of the Anti-Options Bill Regarded as of Less Importance by Nebraska Agriculturalists Than the Price of Cereals.

WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE BEE.
513 FOURTEENTH STREET,
WASHINGTON, D. C. Dec. 7.

The farmers of Nebraska are deluging the senate with a uniform memorial, the same as coming from other northwestern states, setting forth that they are farmers, grain growers, and that cash wheat on October 10 reached the lowest price ever before known in the history of this country, that the reason of the prevailing depression is on account of a combine existing between the millers, elevators and railroads, and asking that the committee having charge of the Washburn-Hatch options bill investigate the methods of the combine and that further action on the Washburn-Hatch options bill be postponed to await the result of this investigation. The memorial is now being referred to the committee on agriculture and forestry. The committee regards the proposed investigation as wise and just. An effort was made upon the floor of the senate by some apparent enemies of the anti-options bill to have the memorial referred to the committee on judiciary, which is indifferent upon this and kindred subjects.

CAN NOT DISCREDIT PORTER'S WORK.

Now that the election is over and no further party purposes can be gained by discrediting the work of the senator, the committee of the senate which was begun with so much flourish last session, will be able to proceed with the work of the committee which attended the session when Mr. Porter's work was investigated and so fully satisfied with the utter uselessness of further investigation that they have threatened to resign from the census committee unless they are permitted to drop the matter. From among those who now acknowledge the folly of the scheme to discredit Mr. Porter's work is Mr. Fithian of Illinois, a democrat who is chairman of the investigating subcommittee.

GROWTH OF AN IOWA CITY.

A special bulletin was issued by the census office this afternoon giving statistics of manufactures for the city of Burlington, Ia., in the census year 1890. The figures of 1890 compared with those of 1880 are as follows:

	1880.	1890.
Population	1,945	22,505
Number of establishments	134	221
Capital invested	\$1,420,373	\$3,144,881
Number of hands employed	1,426	3,066
Wages paid	\$55,093	\$1,367,640
Value of materials used	1,623,336	2,718,594
Value of product	2,838,053	4,338,553
Municipal debt	128,061	\$87,910

MISCELLANEOUS.

Today Assistant Chandler affirmed the decision of the commissioner in the timber culture contest of John Buey against Thomas J. Laughlin of Nebraska. Mr. Buey, for captain and assistant commissary of subsistence; Dr. Noah R. Hobbs of Elmwood for the examining board in Wyoming; and Mr. A. C. Hubbard, resigned. Miss Anna Marlow of Beatrice and Miss Alice M. Bradley of South Omaha, were today appointed microscopists at South Omaha.

General George W. Jones of Dubuque, Ia., the first senator from that state and prominent in public life, was in the city of Omaha, in the city of Washington, for the winter, the guest of his relatives at 1309 Corcoran street. General Jones, though nearing his 90th year, is in excellent health.

Mrs. Louisa Hyatt was today appointed postmaster at Hayden, Phelps county. Lincoln was today made a reserve city being designated as such by the controller of the currency under provisions of law, thus enabling national banks in that portion of Nebraska to keep a part of their reserve with any of the national banks in that city. This will have the effect of enlarging the deposits of country banks with the Lincoln banks and the reserve fund of that city.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

Philadelphia Press.
The threatened injury to American interests by the French control of the Panama railroad demonstrates the great importance of removing all possible doubt about the ownership and control of the Nicaragua canal.

Philadelphia Ledger.
All the gulf and Pacific coast states are anxious that the government should not only aid in the construction of the new canal, but get such control of it as will enable the government to combine with the Pacific railroad. The feeling on this subject on the Pacific slope is very strong.

Philadelphia Times.
If it will pay private capital should build it. In no event should the government of the United States undertake the enterprise or pledge its credit for either principal or interest of the necessary cost of the undertaking. The federal

government will need all the money it should raise by taxation for the legitimate purpose of maintaining itself.

New York Tribune.
The Monroe doctrine is to be reduced to a farce at the isthmus, and American commercial interests are to be endangered by a foreign corporation. It is high time that the Nicaragua canal was taken up as a government enterprise and carried out as an American work. That would knock out what little breath there is left in the Panama canal project and would fatally impair the value of the Columbia guarantee to the isthmus project.

Chicago Inter Ocean.
The chief benefits from all directions should accrue to the people of this country. The canal means a saving of \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 a year to our people, as the rates are charged by this or a foreign country. That is the thing to consider in debating the placement of control. With this arm of commerce provided, the products of the Mississippi water shed can be delivered to the Pacific, South America and oriental ports from 30 to 50 per cent cheaper than now they are.

St. Paul Pioneer-Press.
There ought to be a healthy public sentiment which would make impossible the public advocacy of any such project as that which has been boldly proclaimed in a great city of the union, and which is about to carry the war into every such community, at the great price of \$100,000,000. It is strange indeed that men can be found to further such a cause, and strange that they can retain their place and honor in a community which has been boldly proclaimed in its advancement. For in this Nicaragua matter one cannot well deceive himself or his behind a breastwork of plausible pretences.

HAS HE LYNCHED BY THE ALLIANCE?

Hearing of Twelve Members of the Order Accused of Murder.

St. Stephen, Ala., Dec. 7.
The twelve prominent alligators of the Washington and Choctaw counties, who are in jail here charged with the lynching of Chris Chambers last July, were before Judge Porter yesterday in the habeas corpus proceedings. Hundreds of friends of the accused men were in town. Much excitement prevailed and extraordinary efforts were made to secure the release of the men on bail.

The facts brought out were that the accused were all members of the farmers alliance