THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1894, was as follows:

1	20,869	16	20,511
2	21,157	17	21,569
3	27,285	18	22,175
4	24,525	19	20,484
5	21,537	20	20,512
6	21,173	21	20,153
7	34,269	22	20,434
8	28,953	23	20,254
9	24,535	24	20,238
10	21,468	25	21,799
11	22,489	26	20,123
12	20,897	27	20,076
13	21,031	28	19,968
14	20,562	29	20,020
15	20,570	30	19,982

Total	659,654
Less deductions for unsold and returned copies	11,282
Total sold	648,372
Daily average net circulation	21,612

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 31 day of December, 1894.
(Seal.) N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

Mr. Breckinridge received a very cool reception at Cincinnati, and it will grow cooler as he goes farther south on his lecturing tour.

The secretary of state has invested $975 of the state's money in 150 new chairs for the legislature. What has become of the chairs bought two years ago?

Six dollars and a half apiece for chairs that are expected to be used up at the end of the sixty-day session is a very nice luxury for Nebraska to indulge in these hard times.

The battles of the Nebraska militia will have to be fought out before the Nebraska legislature with Major General Colby and Adjutant General Gage standing guard over the camp chest.

If there are any postmasters or federal officers in any capacity among the men elected to the legislature they had better resign at once. No person holding a federal office can be a member of the legislature.

In times like these it is essential that every dollar of Nebraska money, so far as practicable, be kept within her borders. Buy Nebraska products and manufactures in preference to all others, and thus stand up for Nebraska.

When Commissioner Luke of the Iowa Railroad commission impetuously exclaimed that the commission was not in existence to submit to a cross-examination he unwittingly exhibited the railroad brand on his collar.

Two Sticks, the Sioux chieftain, has paid the penalty for his terrible crime. There is but one regret attending the affair, and that is the escape from justice of his accomplices in the foul murder of which he was convicted.

A state official of Iowa is authority for the statement that the Iowa railways will not present bills for transporting the state militia to Council Bluffs to repel the invasion of the Kelly army last year. Let us hope, for decency's sake, that the statement may prove true.

Superintendent Hunt says that the receivers of the waterworks company contemplate extensions and improvements which will cost over $200,000, the work to begin early in the spring. This announcement will be hailed with satisfaction by the property owners of Omaha.

A new beginning ought to be made in the city hall in the matter of telephones. One telephone station on each floor would be sufficient in any business establishment, but the city is paying $48 a year in telephone charges for nearly every office in the building. There is such a thing as having too many conveniences at the public expense.

The spread of that dread scourge, diphtheria, this year, is the subject of general comment. We hope the convention of doctors now sitting in this city will take necessary steps for making experiments with the new German remedy, anti-toxine. As yet the medical profession in Nebraska seems to have taken little interest in the new treatment.

Salaries of superintendents and employes of state institutions are out of all proportion to those paid executive and judicial officers. Retrenchment is the order of the day, and there is no more fallow field for the practice of economy than in the various state institutions, from the the penitentiary down to the asylum for feeble minded at Beatrice. The fact that these officials and employes are fed and housed by the state is a big item these drouth-stricken times, and should be considered when the legislature takes up the pruning knife in dead earnest.

A provision should by all means be incorporated in the new charter that will prohibit the introduction of new ordinances or claims that have not been approved by the comptroller within twenty days before the close of each council. That would do away with all jobs and fraudulent claims that are held back purposely until the last days of the council, and railroaded through under high pressure. The constitution of Nebraska prohibits the introduction of bills within twenty days of the close of each session. The object of this clause was to check hasty legislation and jobbery. Its effect has been very salutary, and the state has been saved thousands of dollars by heading off snap-judgment bills and claims that fear the daylight.

THE FIGHT OVER IOWA RATES.

The discussion over the proposed increase of Iowa freight rates, which has been in progress before the Iowa Railroad commission during the past two days, has attracted attention not only through the state of Iowa, but also this side of the Missouri. The Iowa shippers and producers have been ably represented by men who are thoroughly familiar, not only with railroad tariff sheets, but with the inside rates made by traffic managers and general freight agents to the rebate favorites.

Ex-Commissioner Campbell demolished all the specious arguments made by the railroad attorneys, who asserted that higher rates prevailed in adjacent states situated the same as Iowa is, by citing the inside rates that have been for years given to jobbers and mill men in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. As might have been expected, Nebraska was quoted by the railroad retainers in support of their claim that Iowa rates under the present commissioner schedule are unreasonably low. They failed to state, however, that the shippers and producers of Nebraska have for years been in revolt against the exorbitant and oppressive local rates exacted on this side of the Missouri. They did not refer to the fact, either, that our legislatures have for ten years past been elected on platforms pledging reduced rates to the people. It is significant in this connection to note the pressure which is being brought upon the Iowa Railroad commission through republican campaign managers, who are exerting their political pull in the interest of the railroad corporations.

The Iowa commission will do well to bear in mind that the railroad attorneys who are pleading for higher rates do not voice the sentiment of the rank and file of the party, and moreover would, if their pernicious influence predominates, drag the party down into defeat in the very next campaign. It is safe to say that not one voter in every ten thousand in the state of Iowa favors the raising of freight rates, even if the railroad schedule was sure to be rescinded within ninety days.

THE SCHOOL BOARD DEFICIT.

The Board of Education finds itself in sore straits. The report of the finance committee, which embodies recommendations for reforms which the new board is expected to inaugurate, is in reality an arraignment of the old management for extravagance and unbusinesslike methods. The committee has discovered a shortage of several thousand dollars in the building fund, caused by expenditures for new buildings in excess of the amount set apart for their construction and equipment. This is not the only bad break made in connection with the new school houses. The worst imposition on the taxpayers was the exorbitant prices paid for several of the sites, the squandering of thousands of dollars for filling and grading these lots, and the costly foundations that had to be built for some of the buildings by reason of their being located on filled ground.

The committee points out as one of the causes of shortage in the school fund the increase in the interest account by nearly $20,000 a year, but that increase could have been foreseen and forestalled by corresponding reductions in other directions. To say that inasmuch as the bonded debt for the new school sites and buildings was created by a voluntary vote of the people therefore the city should make provision for paying the interest and sinking fund by an increase of the school levy is pettifogging the case. The Board of Education formulated and submitted the school bond propositions. It made the purchases and expended not only the proceeds of the bonds, but improvidently and without warrant of law overdrew the building fund. It stands to reason that the school board is expected to make provision for meeting the interest on the debt it has created, just as it does the current expenses for running the schools.

If the income overlaps the disbursements the brakes should have been turned on at every point where retrenchment and economy are possible without seriously impairing the efficiency of the schools. The deficit for the coming year is estimated at $65,000 by the committee. This corresponds with the estimate made by The Bee some weeks ago.

The committee seeks to make out a very good case for the board as well as the city council by asserting that nobody is to blame for this extraordinary overlap, but if the members had been managing the business of a private corporation in the same way there would have been somebody to blame, and that somebody would have been severely reprimanded or relieved from further responsibility by involuntary retirement. While it is true that there has been a marked increase in school attendance within the past two years that fact constitutes no valid reason for keeping up the needless and expensive fads and ologies when the income does not warrant such luxuries.

The new school board has a very rocky road before it, and it is to be hoped it will profit by the blunders of the outgoing board.

SOUTHERN WAR CLAIMS.

A large number of southern war claims has been dismissed by the court of claims and transmitted to congress because upon preliminary inquiry the fact could not be established that the claimants were loyal during the war. How many more claims there are before the court, presented by persons who will be unable to prove their loyalty, it is impossible to say, but unquestionably the number is large, and it will be very materially increased if half the claims before congress shall be sent to the court. The calendar of the house is loaded down with bills reported at the last session to pay the claims of alleged loyal men who lived within the confederate lines during the war and whose property was taken or destroyed by the union army. The members who bring forward these claims usually assert that all they ask is that the claims be referred to the court, which must pass on them according to the evidence presented to it. The advantage is clearly with the claimants, for it is so long since the war that it is difficult in some cases, and in most of them impossible, for the government to prove the disloyalty of claimants, many of whom are making claims as heirs of persons now dead. However diligent the attorneys for the government may be they cannot in a great many cases get testimony at this late date to disprove that brought forward by the claimants, who generally can afford to pay well for the testimony they require.

The amount of southern war claims now pending is said to exceed $600,000,000. It is not probable that more than one-third of them are honest and just, but the chances are that a much larger amount will finally be allowed. It has been urged that notwithstanding the undoubted fact that a large proportion of these claims are fraudulent and that the difficulty of the government showing them to be fraudulent increases from year to year, still it is the duty of congress to let the court of claims or some other tribunal sift these claims and adjust the few valid ones. This is a questionable proposition. Loyal men living in the south during the war whose property was taken or destroyed by the government should be reimbursed, but there is reason to believe that very few such have not already had their claims adjusted, and those who have neglected to do so hardly deserve consideration if it involves an interminable raid on the treasury by people who were not loyal to the government. The persons who could present a just claim to reimbursement for loss of property have had ample time in which to do so, and if they have failed to improve the opportunity they alone are to blame. It is an injustice to the taxpayers of the country to be required to provide money for an indefinite time for this purpose, with the certainty that a considerable proportion of it will be paid to persons who have no legal or moral right to it. There has been an enormous increase in the the amount of these claims presented in the present congress, showing that the people of the south are fully alive to their opportunity in this particular. The republicans in congress will be justified in preventing the passage of every claim to which there is a warrantable doubt of its honesty and fairness.

SLEEPING CAR RATES.

It is announced that Senator Sherman intends to make an earnest effort to have adopted his amendment to the house pooling bill, which provides for the regulation of sleeping and parlor car charges. This measure prescribes a maximum rate of one-half cent per mile for upper berths and one-third cent per mile for lower berths in sleepers, and for parlor cars one-half cent per mile, and makes it unlawful for any individual or individuals, corporation or corporations, owning, leasing or operating any sleeping car upon any railroad in and between the several states in the United States to make a greater charge than the bill prescribes. It is also provided that the companies shall supply secure safes for the care of valuables. All sleeping car companies or other corporations owning, controlling, leasing or operating sleeping and parlor cars are to be deemed common carriers of passengers and subject to all the responsibilities, duties and laws governing common carriers of passengers. Any violation of the provisions of the bill is made punishable by a fine of $100 per day, one-half of which goes to the prosecutor and the other to the United States.

It is stated that if the committee in charge should fail to report the amendment with the bill Mr. Sherman will push it in the senate and demand a vote on its adoption. There can be no doubt that the measure will be approved by the traveling public, though it would be improved and rendered more acceptable to the public if it fixed the rate for parlor cars at one-third of a cent per mile. The reduction which it is proposed to make in sleeping car rates is not great, and cannot be objected to on the score of being either unreasonable or unfair. The munificent revenues of the sleeping and parlor car companies show that they can stand the rates prescribed in this amendment, which are very little below those now charged by the companies, except in cases where, by an arbitrary rule, the charge is fixed between points having competing lines according to the longest distance traveled. Besides, they would undoubtedly have more patronage at the reduced rates, so that probably their gross revenues would not be materially affected by the proposed reduction. Senator Sherman will have no difficulty in presenting conclusive arguments in support of his proposition, and he can press it with the assurance that it has the practically unanimous approval of the public. The sleeping car monopoly has always enjoyed the privilege of making its own terms, and it has never considered the question of what is fair and reasonable to the traveling public in doing so. It has arrogantly and arbitrarily pursued its course of exaction, evading responsibilities and duties whenever it was possible to do so, and all the time showing the rapacity and greed that intrenched monopoly is capable of. It is high time that the national authority stopped its exactions and subjected it to just regulations. Congress will do the public a very valuable service by passing Senator Sherman's amendment.

The appointment by the Chinese government of Ex-Secretary John W. Foster to assist the peace commissioners of China in negotiating terms with Japan is a distinguished compliment to that diplomatist. Mr. Foster succeeded James G. Blaine as secretary of state, and made an excellent record, showing very superior ability in conducting diplomatic questions. Prior to this his services had been called into requisition by President Harrison, with most satisfactory results, as his appointment to the secretaryship attested. He was minister to Spain and has had other experience in the work of diplomacy. Probably no American is better equipped than Mr. Foster for the service he is to perform for the Chinese government, and it is safe to predict that the result will greatly increase his reputation. It is now certain that China desires peace, and probably is prepared to make a very generous offer to secure it. There are all sorts of reports as to the demands Japan will make, and there is reason to believe that she will not be governed by a spirit of magnanimity. Having China at her feet she can make her own terms, subject only to the restraint of not going so far as to incite opposition from European nations.

The State Federation of Labor will send representatives before the legislature in advocacy of a half dozen measures in which labor is vitally concerned. We have heretofore suggested that labor leaders hereabouts would do well to concentrate their efforts upon one or two important bills for which they are contending. We now suggest that the Federation call up some of the laws now on the statute books of other states enacted in their behalf and institute an inquiry as to how well they are being enforced, if at all.

It is now given out that the proposed bill to regulate sleeping car fares is to be attached by Senator Sherman as a rider to the railroad pooling bill. If that be true, and Senator Sherman succeeds in having his rider engrafted on the pooling bill, that measure will at least possess some merit. The chances are, however, that the railroad contingent of the senate, which is said to constitute about two-thirds of its membership, will reject the Sherman amendment as soon as is has been presented.

A Tariff for Destruction.

Boston Advertiser.

The Spanish incident only affords another example of the way in which the democratic tariff law has decreased and choked foreign trade with the United States, and a comparison between the pledges made by the democratic orators a few years ago and the fulfillment of those pledges in the present year is so significant as to call for little added comment.

Raids on the Gold Pile.

New York Tribune.

Russia is borrowing $75,000,000 in gold in eastern Europe, and Austria is borrowing $37,000,000 in gold to complete its arrangements for setting up the gold standard. This is causing another such transfer of stocks of gold as was seen two years ago, when the outgo from the United States was so heavy. Taken in connection with the prevailing disposition of Europeans to carry as small a supply of American securities as possible, these developments promise to make the drain upon our gold reserves this winter and next spring unusually heavy.

A Lesson in Convict Labor.

Indianapolis Journal.

The last legislature in Ohio passed a law requiring all goods made by convict labor to be labeled as convict made. This resulted in the boycotting of the goods to such an extent as to cause many contractors to quit the business, and in consequence of this the prison has run behind this year $73,134 and hundreds of convicts are in the idle house. If convict labor is to be abolished, and there are strong reasons why it should be, it will become a serious question how to employ convicts and prevent prisons from becoming a heavy tax on the people.

Too Much Government.

Chicago Herald.

A city newspaper, in describing the evils of the multiplicity of governments from which Chicago suffers, says that a man can stand on any corner and consider himself as under three separate jurisdictions, the state, county and city. That only half describes it, to say the least. He is also under the jurisdiction of the town, park district and sanitary district, to say nothing of the ward and school jurisdictions, the last being a taxing jurisdiction. The citizen lives under seven different governments, each wth its different laws, ordinances, regulations, official establishment and taxing powers. We are governed too much.

Calling Spain to Time.

Chicago Tribune.

The president has not acted a moment too promptly or a whit too sharply. Spain has always been one of the worst and most unjust offenders against this country in the matter of trade. She has received more money from this country than from all others combined. Her West Indian possessions have lived off our gold and she has lived off them. She has been haughty and insufferable in all her dealings with us, and it is time she was squelched and made to behave herself. The president has struck her in a vital spot, and it may have the effect of bringing her to her senses. This country has endured Spanish insolence long enough. It is time to talk back.

Fruits of Financial Tinkering.

Springfield Republican.

Gold will continue to go out as long as the Democrats stay in. The country would be much better off if it could export the democrats and keep the yellow metal at home. But as there is no domestic, so there is no foreign demand for them, and they are not wanted anywhere except now and then by the criminal courts and the grand jury. With the present currency tinker at the head of the finance department, it is rather surprising that a dollar of gold is left in the country. It does not flow away from him like molasses in winter, but with nimblest radiating centrifugality, like the distribution of koumiss out of an exploded bottle. When he leaves the department he will probably not leave enough of the standard metal to start a gold cure with, and the retiring administration may need one.

A Jewel Among Reformers.

Chicago Herald.

The committee of five was the executive body of the committee of seventy which managed the recent successful campaign against Tammany in New York City. Fulton McMahon was a member of the committee of five, and the appointment of deputy sheriff was offered to him, which he declined. It is a very lucrative office. He said that if he should accept the appointment it would look as if he had taken a part of the spoils as a reward for his reform labors in politics, and it would close his mouth if the new reform administration should prove faithless to the objects for which it was placed in power, and should deserve public censure. A reformer in politics who refuses an office worth several thousands of dollars a year because it would create a scandal displays evidence that his reform principles are genuine, and not a cover for the pursuit of the spoils. Citizens of this stamp are rare.

Nebraska's Valued Policy Law.

Des Moines Capital.

The Davenport Democrat heartily endorses the Nebraska valued policy law, which requires insurance companies in case of total loss to pay the total amount named in the policy, and for which the company has accepted the premiums. It is well known that the insurance companies object to such a law on the ground that it encourages incendiarism and also encourages over insurance. The companies say that if they are not permitted to prove that the property had or had not the insurance value at the time of the taking out of the policy, they might as well consider themselves ready to pay every policy that is issued, and that the result would be insurance rates would have to be increased. The disinterested public say that the insurance company ought to be compelled to make its investigation and know what it is insuring at the time the policy is made out; that if there is any fraud that is the time to make the discovery.

Pensioned Officers' Widows.

Curtis in Chicago Record.

The senate has passed bills granting pensions to the widows of General Nathaniel P. Banks and Thomas L. Crittenden at the rate of $100 a month. Congress has been very liberal in placing the widows of army officers on the roll. The highest sums are paid to Mrs. Garfield and Mrs. Grant, but they are widows of presidents. The following is a list of widows upon the pension roll receiving not less than $100 a month and the amount that each receives monthly:

Widow of James A. Garfield, $116.66; widow of U. S. Grant, $116.66; widow of Phil Sheridan, $208.33; widow of David D. Porter, $208.33; widow of John A. Logan, $166.66; widow of F. P. Blair, $166.66; widow of George Cook, $166.66; widow of George B. McClellan, $166.66; widow of John C. Fremont, $166.66; widow of Fletcher Webster, $100; widow of Robert Anderson, $100; widow of James B. Ricketts, $100; widow of George I. Stannard, $100; widow of Gabriel R. Paul, $100; widow of James A. Mower, $100; widow of David P. McDougal, $100; widow of S. P. Heintzelman, $100; widow of L. H. Rosseau, $100; widow of J. W. Nicholson (rear admiral), $100; widow of W. C. Whitaker, $100; widow of Harry D. Wallen, $100; widow of John F. Hartranft, $100; widow of G. K. Warren, $100; widow of George A. Custer, $100; widow of Charles Wilkes, $100; widow of Hudson Kilpatrick, $100; widow of Silas Casey, $100; widow of James Shields, $100; widow of John M. Corse, $100.

The following were also granted, but the pensioners are dead:

Widow of A. Lincoln, $116.66; widow of James K. Polk, $416.66; widow of John Tyler, $416.66; widow of D. G. Farragut, $166.66; widow of George H. Thomas, $166.66; widow of W. S. Hancock, $166.66.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The total foreign trade of China amounted in 1892 to $260,086,338, and $208,069,110, or 80 per cent of that trade, was with Great Britain and her colonies. The coasting trade is in the hands of the British, and so are the banking facilities at the twenty-three treaty ports. An Englishman is at the head of the customs administration and Great Britain virtually controls the entire foreign trade of China. She sells to China about $30,000,000 worth a year of opium and nearly all the $65,000,000 worth of cotton and woolen goods China buys. Outside of her colonies Great Britain buys from China $3,000,000 less of merchandise than does the United States and sells about $25,000,000 more of goods to China than we do. When the colonies are included the difference in Britain's favor is enormously increased. That explains the great anxiety of England to preserve the weak and corrupt government of China from reorganization. It is purely a selfish interest. But Russia can be depended upon to prevent any direct interference by Great Britain in the interest of her trade. If the Japanese force on China the importance of adopting western ideas in the internal and external administration of her affairs it may hurt Great Britain's trade, but it will improve the Chinese government, teach the people of that nation a needed lesson and benefit the world in general.

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The movement on foot in France for the purgation of the Legion of Honor, particularly the extrusion from it of those involved in the Panama scandal, will be found a particularly difficult undertaking. That great iniquity stained and infected all classes, public officials, the judiciary, the financiers, the press and everybody who had anything to do with it, except the investors, who were the innocent sheep, supplying the fleece which their spoilers parted among them. To pluck out every one who has been besmirched in this ill-starred business would leave so many holes in the order that perhaps little else would be left. The great chapter might be annulled altogether and reconstituted on a new basis, leaving the unworthy out in the cold, where they belong; but it is not likely that a step so radical will be taken. From the first its emblems of honor have been given to some of the most dishonorable men who have ever existed, such as Talleyrand, for example. And it is not surprising that in this period its decorations often find their way where they do not legitimately belong. The society would undoubtedly be the better for a copious purgation and the extrusion from its rolls of those proved to be unworthy, but it will be difficult work, and may be found to be impossible.

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The young czar has given another practical demonstration of his earnest desire to effect reforms in the Russian body politic by his order to release the survivors of the Cossack massacre at Krosche, in Poland, which occurred on November 10, 1893. The liberation of these prisoners will recall the horrible treatment meted out to the inhabitants of the Catholic village of Krosche, whose resistance to an order to close their church was punished by the slaughter of 100 of their number by lance thrusts and the blows of murderous knouts in the hands of a horde of Cossacks, while the remainder, men, women and children, after having been stripped and flogged within an inch of their lives, were driven to prison. The reformation of a system under which such cruelties are possible is a task of overwhelming magnitude; but there is evidence that the czar will not shun his self-imposed duty in the removal of General Gourko, the despotic governor of Warsaw, who was, at least, indirectly responsible for the persecution of the Jews in his province, as well as for the horror at Krosche.

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The new president of Brazil is enforcing measures of economy, the like of which were never before heard of in that country. When any appropriation is asked for, even one that seems to be necessary, President Moraes calls attention to the state of the treasury, or the diminution of the public revenue in recent times, or the desirability of reducing the enormous debt incurred during the war, or the inability of the Brazilian people to suffer any enlargement of the burdens of taxation. His language on the subject is impressive and his conduct is in conformity with it. In the inaugural address, which he delivered last month, he spoke of the necessity of economy in the public administration; but the Rio politicians regarded his words as not less vacuous than words of the kind usually are. In the most practical way he has given it to be understood that his promises are to be kept, and that the policy which he outlined when he took office is to be enforced, so far as he has the power to enforce it. There are already signs that it will bring him into trouble before long; but if he shall be able to carry it out against all opposition he will win a place in Brazilian history more favorable than that of his two extravagant predecessors in the presidency, and he may be able to rescue the young republic from the financial morass into which it has been driven during the past five years. Up to this time republicanism has brought neither peace nor prosperity, neither complete freedom nor full satisfaction to Brazil.

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Some interesting statistics have been submitted by the Austrian government to the select committee on electoral reform which has the troublesome question of the franchise under consideration. These figures show that in Cisleithania, with about 24,000,000 inhabitants, and a male population of about 11,500,000, the number of persons of 24 and upwards who could claim the right to vote if the universal and equal franchise demanded by the working classes were granted would be 5,543,798, whereas at present only one-third, or 1,725,072, are on the register. If the right to vote were given to all who pay direct taxes, however small in amount, nearly 800,000 persons would profit by it, while if the franchise were confined to the industrial working classes the new voters would also number about 800,000. Furthermore, if both classes were included—and for this extension two out of the three coalition parties in the Reichsrath, the Germans and Poles, are prepared—the number of voters would rise to 3,300,000, or nearly 14 per cent of the entire population. Should the education test be applied, as is also proposed, the consequences would be very different, since out of the whole male population of Cisleithania of 24 years and upward only 3,350,000 can read and write, while 1,793,000 are illiterates, the proportion per cent being—in Galicia 34, in Dalmatia 38½, and in lower Austria, with Vienna, 3.

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Great Britain sustains today peculiar relations to both Germany and Russia, a fact which the episode of the prince of Wales at the czar's funeral has tended to emphasize. When the venerable Queen Victoria shall die she will leave the British crown as a possible legacy to the heirs of eight courts outside of the British Isles. Germany, Prussia, Saxe-Meiningen, Greece, Hesse, Battenberg, Russia and Schleswig-Holstein are all represented in the line of succession. The prince of Wales, the duke of York, the duke of Kent, the duchess of Fife, Lady Alexandria Duff, the Princesses Victoria and Maud of Wales, the duke of Edinburgh and eleven others of the intimate family circle would seem to insure the continuance of the throne to the royalty of the soil; but the twentieth in succession is Emperor William's mother, and he himself is No. 21. The crown princess of Greece, Victoria's granddaughter, stands in the thirty-third place, and the Grand Duchess Sergius of Russia, another granddaughter, is seven ranks removed. A great European war would be, without doubt, a great family quarrel.

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France is the largest foreign creditor of Russia, holding $1,500,000,000 of her securities, a fact which ought to promote amicable relations between the countries, particularly as the new czar may find it desirable to borrow some more money one of these days. There seems no end to the reserve fund of the French people, who are everybody's creditor, owe nobody and possess in their economy and thrift an inexhaustible mine of prosperity and abundance. They pay off enormous war indemnities with no strain or trouble whatever, finding the resources therefor in the woolen stockings of their peasantry, and on occasion can drop such a trifle as $400,000,000 into a blind ditch like that at Panama without winking. The lesson of frugality which the nation inculcates is of inestimable value to the world at large, and might be studied by our own workers with considerable advantage.

CARNEGIE'S GREAT PULL.

San Francisco Call: The Navy department seems to have admitted practically that in the contest between assault and resistance as carried on for some years through the agency of guns and armor plate the gun has the best of it. At all events armor plate that projectiles have cracked is to be attached to one of our crack battle ships. Whether or not democracy is triumphant Carnegie certainly is.

Chicago Times: After a personal conference with Mr. Carnegie Secretary Herbert announces that "the cracking was caused by the use of a projectile much superior to the ordinary service shot," and that he will accept all the armor despite this failure under trial. What, then, is the use of having tests at all? And, above all, what is the mysterious influence which Andrew Carnegie exerts at Washington?

Chicago Post: The relations between this administration and Carnegie, Phipps & Co. remain the most inexplicable in American history. If the firm had shown previous faithfulness in the execution of contracts some leniency toward it might be allowable. But after it has betrayed roguish traits and been convicted morally of fraud, to permit it to botch its work and palm off dangerous material on the government is more than a sage could account for. In any other country than this Mr. Herbert's action would subject him to a public uprising that would drive him from office.

New York World: Then the Carnegies made some more armor—about $300,000 worth—which failed to stand the prescribed tests. Nevertheless Mr. Carnegie was able last week to persuade the secretary to accept the whole defective lot. Now Carnegie coolly demands that the paltry sum his concern pals in lieu of submitting to a criminal prosecution shall be returned to him. Having got half his pay for the blowholes by grace of the president, he now demands the other half and threatens suit for its recovery. What is the secret of this extraordinary "pull?" Why should not congress ask the secretary and the president to explain it?

TICKLING TAKE-OFFS.

New York Press.

Boston Transcript: Hicks—Phraser declares that he owes everything to his wife.
Wicks—Nonsense! Why, man, he owes everybody in town.

Atchison Globe: The friendship between two girls usually ceases as soon as they have told everything they know.

Philadelphia Record: Ethel—I kissed your picture yesterday because it was so much like you.
George—Did it kiss you back?
Ethel—No.
George—Then it wasn't much like me.

Washington Post: The man who never changes his views always attracts the attention of the man who never changes his shirt.

Plain Dealer: Friend—What is your father doing now, Jimmy?
"Father? Doin'? Let's see. This is Sadderday. I s'pect he's tryin' to borrer a five-dollar bill about now."

Chicago Tribune: "I wouldn't smoke those nasty, vile-smelling things, dear boy."
"Why not? Robert Louis Stevenson smoked them."
"I know it, but he had humanity enough to go to the middle of the Pacific ocean to do so."

Washington Star: "Talk is cheap," observed the man who believes in proverbs.
"Humph!" replied the man who doesn't. "That remark shows that you never hired a lawyer or rented a telephone."

Indianapolis Journal: "This old fellow," said the teamster, fondly patting his horse on the neck, "has been hauling for the city for twenty-five years."
"Got a pull, I suppose," sneered the mugwump gentleman.

Philadelphia Record: "Yes, my dear, man is an animal; but, fortunately, at this season of the year he has but two legs to pull," said Mr. Pennsqueezer.
"And if man were a four-legged beast," retorted the wife of his bosom, "he would kick with all four."

Chicago Tribune: "It's nothing but vanity that makes you always conceal your age, Banks," said Rivers, "but I'm going to find it out in spite of you!"
"I'd like to know how you expect to do it," said Banks.
"I am going to outlive you," rejoined Rivers, "and read it on your tombstone."

New York Weekly: Tramp—No'm, I am not a wood sawyer, mum. I draw. Gimme a square meal, and I'll show you.
Housekeeper—Well, it's worth it to see a man like you do anything.
Tramp (after the meal)—Thankee, mum. Now I'll go and lie down in the sun.
"But you promised to draw."
"Yes'm. I draw flies."

A WARNING.

A youth whom his parents named Willie
Was fond of the sauce called Chili,
And, to cool his inside,
Kept his mouth open wide,
And he died from inhaling bacilli.

BETTER TIMES.

Atlanta Constitution.

Country's lookin' all alive,
Better times for Ninety-five!
Don't care what the croakers say—
Country's happy on the way!
Sun's still shinin' round about—
When it's night, the stars come out;
An' when they ain't shinin' right,
'Long comes the electric light!
Keep on goin'—toil an' strive;
Better times in Ninety-five!

Country's lookin' all serene;
Though the woods is stripped o' green,
Somewhere, underneath the snow,
There's a daisy that'll grow!
If it's cold, it does us good;
Exercise in choppin' wood!
An' if wood comes purty high,
Somer'll be here by an' by!
Keep on goin'—look alive!
Better times in Ninety-five.

NO HURRY ABOUT FORT CROOK

Quartermaster General Sees No Cause for Precipitating Work of Construction.

MAY ADVERTISE FOR NEW BIDS SOON

O. J. King of Omaha the Lowest Bidder for Putting Up the New Federal Building at Kansas City—Other Capital Gossip.

WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE BEE.
1407 F Street, N. W.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.

It seems that the officials in the office of the quartermaster general in the War department will not take any extra pains to expedite the work on placing the contract for constructing the new buildings at Fort Crook. Many urgent requests have been made to the quartermaster general that this work be hastened to a completion, and that official has made several promises that the work will be pushed as rapidly as possible. It is now over two weeks since the bid of M. P. Keefe of Omaha was rejected by the department and since it was decided to advertise again for proposals, and still the advertisement has not yet been issued. It was stated today that bids will be asked for very soon, but that there is no hurry about placing the contract, for the reason that the work cannot be prosecuted until late in the spring.

O. J. King, the well known contractor of Omaha, was the lowest bidder for erecting the superstructure of the public building at Kansas City, Mo., bids for which were opened in the office of the supervising architect of the treasury today. The amount of his bid was $295,992. It is expected that the contract will be awarded to him in a short time. Mr. King was the contractor who built the foundation of the Omaha federal building.

JOHN H. GEAR RECOVERING.

Senator-elect Gear of Iowa has improved rapidly during the past twenty-four hours, and is now believed to be entirely out of danger. He has displayed wonderful vitality and remarkable powers of recuperation. The physician in charge of the case says that Senator Gear will be able to attend the sessions of the house within a couple of weeks.

Nebraska postmasters were commissioned today as follows: Fred A. Austin, Amelia; Annie E. Marker, Otto.

The postoffice at Roxie, Bremer county, Ia., has been discontinued. The mail will go to Holton.

The following postmasters have been appointed: Nebraska—Otto, Webster county, Annie Marker, vice F. E. Paine, resigned. Iowa—Iveyville, Adams county, O. L. Muzzie, vice P. B. Hummell, resigned; Mooreville, Tama county, M. M. Hill, vice A. L. Peveril, resigned; Springhill, Warren county, J. R. Lundy, vice E. E. McIntyre, resigned.

The board of army officers, which has had charge of the compilation of a new set of army regulations, has about completed its work, and the publication is now in the hands of the secretary of war for his approval. It is believed that the new regulations will be issued during the early part of next February.

First Lieutenant Henry A. Shaw will report for temporary duty at Camp Merritt, Mont., and on completion thereof will proceed to Fort Snelling, Minn.

First Lieutenant James M. Arrasmith, Second infantry, is granted leave of absence for three months, and First Lieutenant Stephen L. H. Slocum, adjutant, Eighth cavalry, three months.

INCOMPLETE RECORDS.

Complaints Against the Reporter of Judge Chapman's Court.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Dec. 28.—(Special)—Ten days ago Mr. Warren of this city, counsel for Father Corbett and other priests of the Catholic diocese of Lincoln, obtained from the state supreme court an order requiring the reporter of the district court to furnish him a copy of the records and testimony in the case of Bishop Bonacum against Father Corbett, tried before Judge Chapman in this city last May. Efforts previously made to obtain the record for the purpose of appeal were fruitless, as was shown by letters from the reporter produced in court by counsel, and it was not received by the defendants until a day after the expiration of the extended time for appeal.

An examination of the record by the defense revealed many startling features of the trial omitted from the testimony. One of the interested priests says the record is so incomplete as to be worthless. "All the letters," he says, "that were cited against Bonacum are lost or laid away. At any rate they are not in the evidence. Bonacum's testimony is so changed that he would not recognize it himself."

It is believed the incompleteness of the record will result in a retrial in the district court.

City Takes Possession of a Bank.

WEST SUPERIOR, Wis., Dec. 28.—At 2 o'clock this morning a deputy sheriff took possession of the Bank of South Superior in behalf of a receiver, acting for the city of Superior. It has been known for some time that the bank was in financial straits, and the city attorney decided that to protect the city the receiver should be appointed.

Your Money's Worth or Your Money Back.

Men's Ulsters---

The best time to buy ulsters is when you need 'em. You need 'em now, when it's about a dozen degrees below zero. We are offering an elegant heavy storm ulster for $10, better ones for $12.50 and a splendid one for $15.

Boy's Ulsters---

We are closing out certain lines of boys' ulsters at $4 and $6.50. The cold can't get into 'em.

Underwear---

Ulsters and underwear are the things to keep cold out. We have both.

BROWNING, KING & CO.,

Reliable Clothiers, S. W. Corner Fifteenth and Douglas Sts.