THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
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 December, 1897, was as follows:

1	21,227	17	21,197
2	21,378	18	21,511
3	21,463	19	21,035
4	21,557	20	21,230
5	21,522	21	21,394
6	21,589	22	21,723
7	21,498	23	21,257
8	21,319	24	21,211
9	21,303	25 (morn'g only)	10,557
10	21,269	26	21,060
11	21,346	27	21,204
12	21,029	28	21,326
13	22,217	29	21,088
14	21,342	30	21,016
15	21,377	31	21,538
16	21,264		

Total	656,872
Less returned and unsold copies	12,322
Net total sales	644,550
Net daily average	21,133

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 1st day of January, 1898.
(Seal.) N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

The aggregate carrier delivery circulation of The Evening Bee is double the aggregate carrier delivery circulation of the Evening World-Herald and more than six times greater than the aggregate carrier delivery circulation of the Morning World-Herald in Omaha and South Omaha.

The carrier delivery circulation of The Evening Bee reaches 7,934 bona fide subscribers that are not reached by the Evening World-Herald and 7,616 subscribers that are not reached by the Morning World-Herald.

More than 9,000 carrier delivery subscribers to The Omaha Evening Bee and The Omaha Morning Bee are not reached either by the Morning World-Herald or the Evening World-Herald.

It goes without saying that the number of copies of The Evening Bee or The Morning Bee sold by dealers and newsboys exceeds by a very considerable the number of World-Herald dailies, morning and evening, sold by dealers and newsboys.

The political storm center is now in the vicinity of Columbus, O.

Republican promises are as good as treasury notes. The present republican national administration is living up to this principle.

If the Gage-Gompers joint debate on currency is finished it can be said to their credit that they made it sharp and interesting for the time.

The tariff law became a deficit reducer without a change in a single schedule, and there was no legerdemain of bookkeeping jugglery about it, but simple business.

Of one thing the farmers who are still holding their wheat may be assured. Farmer Leiter of Chicago will not sell out his big stock for a sum less than was paid for it. For some time the price of wheat is assured.

The fact that the sale of internal revenue stamps in this district has doubled within the last year is unmistakable proof that the people who depend upon spiritual consolation are in better condition to gratify their appetites.

A South Carolina legislator is in favor of making it a misdemeanor for a man to wear trousers made with a hip pocket. Whether this is a temperance measure or an effort to decrease the number of impromptu duels is not stated.

The teachers of the transmississippi states generally indorse the suggestion of a grand congress of western teachers at the exposition this year, and all that is needed now to assure success is the arrangement of a good program.

More gold was taken out of the mountains of the transmississippi region last year than ever before in any one year, but the mountains are vast storehouses of the precious metals and the production this year promises to exceed that of its defunct predecessor.

Iowa newspapers explain that one reason there was so little railroad building in Iowa last year is that the state is already oversupplied. There is no point in the state distant more than twelve miles from a railroad and only one county seat that has no railroad connection.

A bureau has been opened in Washington from which will be directed the crusade against permitting the name of God to longer remain in the constitution of the United States. While this is being done the work of putting goodness and godliness into the hearts of the people will be left to others.

Alabama populists have discovered that their democratic allies in that state uphold fraudulent methods for carrying elections and are out with denunciatory resolutions the first thing of the year. Before election day they will be working hand in hand with the democrats to get the offices by fair means or foul.

The discovery has been made that the new code of Iowa does not provide for the punishment of clairvoyants and fortune tellers. They were punishable under the old laws as vagrants, but so long as the Iowa code does not punish wildcat insurance agents and fakirs the code makers are excusable in their omission.

THE CHINESE TRADE.

The trade of the United States with China is small in comparison with that of Great Britain, amounting to only about $16,000,000 annually, but that is a commerce worth preserving and it is certain to grow if the Chinese market is allowed to remain open to the competition of the world, instead of being controlled by the European powers which now appear to be seeking to dominate it. With the privilege of unrestricted competition in the markets of China there is every reason to believe that American trade there would steadily increase and at a period not very remote would attain large proportions. It is this that makes the operations of Russia and Germany in China matter of no little concern to the United States and suggests the necessity of watchfulness on the part of our government lest the important American interests in the Chinese empire be sacrificed. They may very easily be lost and once lost they probably could never be recovered.

Mr. John C. Covert, American consul at Lyons, France, in a special communication to the State department referring to the efforts of European nations to secure Chinese trade, expresses the opinion that the most desirable conquests may be achieved by peaceful methods. "Civilized nations," he says, "have equal interests in opening the trade of China to the world and the powers that attempt to accomplish it by war and conquest do no more than strengthen the Chinese wall." Of course this country can be a party to none other than peaceful methods for opening the trade of China to the world, but the question is as to what we shall do to defeat, if possible, a different policy. The New York Journal of Commerce urges that the policy for this government to favor is that of opening China to free commerce, in which all countries shall enjoy equal privileges and immunities and no favor be shown for militant enterprise. "Our hand should be held out for co-operation with any power that may be ready to enlist with us on this basis. We must stand for commerce through peace and repudiate alliances with all who seek it through war. A clear and positive affirmation must be made of our equal rights with every other nation to the commerce of that vast population." Unquestionably this is the proper attitude for the United States to assume, but it should not go beyond this. If the powers that appear to be planning the partition of China are not disposed to recognize our interests there by according us free commerce we shall have to submit, because we cannot undertake to compel them to do so. Desirable, for the United States, as free commerce with China undoubtedly is, this country cannot afford to involve itself in complications with European powers in order to secure it. It may be that China is to become the prey of the leading nations of Europe and if so this country should do no more than exhaust all peaceful means to preserve its interests there.

A NEW DEPARTMENT.

The advocates of a new executive department of the government, to be known as the department of commerce and industry, will undoubtedly press their proposition at the coming session of congress and as it is said to have the support of the administration there is some probability that a bill providing for such a department will be passed. It has been reported that President McKinley would recommend such action in a special message, but this is improbable, nor will it be necessary in view of the fact that several republican senators are committed to the project and may be expected to promote it if such is the wish of the administration.

The plan is to create a department which shall have direct jurisdiction over both foreign and domestic commerce and which shall embrace the bureaus of labor, navigation and statistics, have control of the consular service, except where consuls are vested with diplomatic functions, and which shall employ itself in promoting the commercial interests of the country. Some quite plausible arguments are advanced in favor of such a department and the plan has been endorsed by various organizations representing the manufacturing and commercial interests of the country, but we have never seen any conclusive reason for the creation at this time of the proposed department. It would necessarily increase the expenditures of the government, though its advocates assert that the increase would be inconsiderable. Grant this, is there any assurance that the results would justify increasing the public expenditures, to however moderate an extent, in this way? At all events, we believe the country can safely wait for the creation of a new executive department until the revenue is sufficient to meet the current expenses.

IOWA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL ORGANIZATION.

The proposal to abandon the district system in rural schools and substitute a township system therefor has been forced upon the attention of educators everywhere by the clear and convincing report of the committee on rural schools of the National Educational association. The educational council of the Iowa State Teachers' association this week indorsed the township system of organization, and an influential Indiana educator in an address before a convention of county superintendents advocated abandonment of weak rural schools and consolidation within the townships substantially in accordance with the township unit system. Leading educators all over the country have approved the plan and it seems to be a coming school reform.

This system contemplates making the civil township the unit of the rural school system, so that each township will have a school board conducting the business of the schools in a manner similar to that of the independent districts. The teachers for all the schools of a township will be employed by the board, their pay will be fixed by the same authority, school supplies will be purchased for all the schools of the township by one agent and taxation will be on the basis of the township. Incidental to this will be such a rearrangement of the districts as will best accommodate the pupils. Some rural schools will always be, under the district system, weak and poorly supported, while others will be overcrowded. The township board under the township system could equalize the work of the various schools, even going to the length of abandoning schools where that is possible, and creating graded schools at central points where that would be possible. There is much wastefulness in the district school system—losses and leakages that cannot very well be avoided until the system is abandoned and a better substituted. The champions of the township system claim that better results will be possible under it than under any other system. It is plain to everyone that there are substantial advantages that would be possible under the system.

Support of the rural schools is a real burden upon the taxpayers, a burden that they carry cheerfully, but not less a burden, and they will readily adopt the proposed change to the township unit system if it can be shown that thereby the burden can be lessened and the efficiency of the rural schools be at the same time increased.

TRANSMISSISSIPPI TEACHERS.

While it is yet too early to be cocksure of the success of the proposed Transmississippi Educational congress for Omaha during the next summer, the endorsement the project has so far received is certainly most encouraging. With hearty support from the leading educators of the west, the battle is well begun, and earnest effort is all now needed to ensure the happy culmination of the plan. The action of the Nebraska State Teachers' association, while expected, is none the less gratifying. The resolutions adopted by the association at its general meeting form a most generous endorsement of the plan and give assurance of hearty support. Similar endorsements from state meetings of western teachers greatly encourage the committee in charge of the enterprise.

In Nebraska alone there are above 8,000 teachers employed. Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota have many thousands more. The attendance at the Lincoln meeting was nearly 1,500, a larger number than ever in the history of the association, showing the great interest taken by teachers in anything that pertains to their vocation. It is this condition that leads to the conclusion that from the states mentioned a sufficient number of teachers may be expected to ensure the success of the congress so far as the mere matter of attendance is concerned. Other states of the transmississippi region will add their quota, and reasonable expectation as to the number of teachers who would take part in the congress may easily be realized.

In its very nature the exposition will be educational. Not alone in the specifically educational features of the exhibition, but in all its branches. No better idea of actual conditions under which people live can be gained elsewhere; the bringing together in close juxtaposition for the purpose of competitive comparison of the products and resources, natural and otherwise, of various states and countries, affords to observers opportunities to gather practical information not obtainable in any other way. Whatever benefits the teacher benefits the pupil, and thus directly reacts on the public; broadening the intellectual scope of the instructor to whom the citizens of the next generation are entrusted for their early training is directly in the line of advancing human welfare. Nowhere in the world will the teacher find a better chance for learning than in Omaha next summer.

There is no question of interference with the plans of the National Educational association. Omaha can only regret the circumstances which led to the location of that body's 1898 convention at another city. But Omaha can supplement the work of the national association. There is ample room for two such conventions. To arouse the interest of transmississippi teachers, so that a part of their summer vacation plans will comprehend a week spent at the exposition and attendance on the Transmississippi Teachers' congress, is the object now. The program, which must be in itself attractive, is a matter of detail. The work so well started must be earnestly supplemented, and the aim is accomplished.

MORE TERRITORIAL ACQUISITION.

Another, though not a new scheme of territorial acquisition, is projected. This is the proposed purchase from Denmark of her West Indian islands, which it is understood that country is willing and even anxious to sell. It is stated that Senator Lodge of Massachusetts has prepared a bill providing for the purchase of the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. Johns and that it will be introduced very soon after the reassembling of congress. Meanwhile it is understood that negotiations with Denmark are proceeding.

During the administration of President Johnson a treaty was negotiated for the purchase of these islands by the United States for the sum of $8,000,000, but it failed of ratification. A later unsuccessful attempt to acquire the islands was made, the failure in this case being ascribed to British influence with Denmark. The last republican national platform urges the purchase of the islands and if it be true that negotiations with reference to their purchase are in progress it is to be inferred that the administration favors their acquisition. It is urged that the possession of the Danish islands by the United States is desirable in order to secure a naval station in the West Indies. The harbor of St. Thomas, it is pointed out, could shelter great fleets and as a naval station would command the entrance to the Gulf and be of immense importance in its strategical relation to the eastern terminus of the Nicaragua canal. Of course the advocates of the purchase assert that Great Britain desires the islands and also that Germany would be pleased to get possession of them, although there does not appear to be a single substantial reason for assuming that either country wants them, any more than there is for the professed belief of the annexationists that those nations covet the Hawaiian islands. Great Britain already has an expensive burden in her West Indian possessions and Germany could not secure the Danish islands if she wanted them. That nation is seeking territorial acquisition in other directions.

Granting that the harbor of St. Thomas would make a good naval station for the United States, is there any necessity for our establishing a station there, or is the necessity so great as to justify the expenditure that would be involved? The outlay would not end with the purchase money, which, indeed, would be only a small part of the eventual expenditure. The desire of Denmark to dispose of these islands is due to the fact that their administration is expensive. It would not be less, but probably more expensive to the United States. In order to secure a naval station we should have to buy all three of the islands and two of them—St. Croix and St. Johns—would be of absolutely no use to us.

This project of territorial acquisition is somewhat less objectionable than that of annexing Hawaii, but it does not commend itself either on the ground of necessity or good policy. It is possible that a bill for the purchase of the Danish islands will pass the senate, but it is safe to say that such a measure cannot pass the present house.

GROWTH OF MONOPOLY.

It appears probable that the new year will bring with it some additions to the already large number of monopolistic combinations. It is announced that an extension of the scope of the Wire trust is in contemplation, it being proposed that all the steel billet mills in the country shall ally themselves with the trust. It is said that the trust will seek to induce the manufacturers of billets to promise not to sell to wire manufacturers that may possibly start outside of the trust and in return the trust will promise to take billets from all these manufacturers as it may need them. Here we have a combination distinctly proposing to shut out all competition and therefore in restraint of trade. It would seem to be clearly amenable to the anti-trust law as that act has been construed by the supreme court of the United States.

The projected coal combination is another move in the interest of monopoly. This contemplates not only control of the anthracite mines, but also of the great bituminous districts and is perhaps the most ambitious monopolistic scheme that has ever been proposed. It would require an enormous capital, but there is an abundant supply of this and the only question is whether the scheme is practicable, so far as the output of bituminous coal, which is so widely distributed, is concerned. But in this era of industrial combinations, able to command any amount of capital and the best business brains of the nation, nothing within the scope of human effort and enterprise can be regarded as impracticable. A combination controlling the output of both anthracite and bituminous coal would be a greater menace to the public interest than any other conceivable monopoly. There are rumors of other projected combinations in several industrial lines.

These movements for the extension of monopoly should not escape the attention of congress and the administration. President McKinley has declared his hostility to trusts. He said in his inaugural address: "The declaration of the party now restored to power has been in the past that of opposition to all combinations of capital organized in trusts, or otherwise, to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among our citizens,' and it has supported 'such legislation as will prevent the execution of all schemes to oppress the people by undue charges on their supplies, or by unjust rates for the transportation of their products to market.' This purpose will be steadily pursued, both by the enforcement of the laws now in existence and the recommendation and support of such new statutes as may be necessary to carry them into effect." This unequivocal enunciation fully commits the administration to an anti-trust policy and the people confidently expect that the assurance given them by the president will be carried into effect. They look for some action that will demonstrate the sincerity of Mr. McKinley's promise to enforce the laws now in existence and to recommend and support such new statutes as may be necessary to carry them into effect.

We do not doubt that such action will be taken in due time and in the meanwhile congress has a duty in this matter. The existing laws to which the president referred need to be purged of their defects. The anti-trust law of 1890 has been shown to be inadequate for the purpose it was intended to serve. It should be amended or additional legislation enacted that will meet the requirements of the situation. The growth of monopoly must be checked and all the power possessed by the government for the accomplishment of this should be speedily and vigorously exerted, at whatever cost.

SAVAGERY AND MISSION WORK.

The foreign mission work of the American churches was a subject of attack in a recent sermon delivered in a Denver pulpit by Rev. Myron Reed, and what he said so far departed from the usual pulpit treatment of this subject that, even granting it to be a mere effort at sensationalism, it deserves attention. Referring to the savages of the world, he said there is not a pauper in a poorhouse in all the islands of the South seas. "Their only curse has been American whalers and American missionaries," he said. "They never had the consumption until some thrifty Yankee introduced the cotton shirt and Connecticut rules of living. The history of civilization is infamous. We have poisoned every native people we have ever touched. And I have actually taken up a collection to send a half-baked graduate of a theological seminary to India! The last one I assisted has gone into the tea business. There are a million Ralph Waldo Emersons in India and my missionary is fruit to them. This whole foreign mission business is the biggest fake on the deck of the world."

If the foreign mission work is a fake it certainly is a big one. A large part of the American missionary work in foreign lands is done through the American board, but there are thirty-three other foreign missionary societies. There are missionary societies attached to all the churches of Great Britain and the colonies. The missionary work is done in nearly every part of the world. The foreign missionary societies of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, continental Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia number 249, with 4,694 stations throughout the world and 15,200 out-stations. There are 11,659 missionaries regularly supported by these societies and 64,290 native laborers. The number of communicants attached to these mission stations is now 1,121,699 and there are 913,478 persons under instruction. The income of the mission boards in all these countries named is $12,988,687.

If, as this modern sensationalist in the pulpit says, the whole foreign mission business is a fake, if missionaries have been a curse to the savages and civilization has been in fact infamous, then a great deal of energy is being wasted in this work.

Happily proof is not wanting of the falsity of the sweeping charge made. Civilization, which has overwhelmed savagery in every corner of the world, has lessened cruelty and crime among the tribes, has uplifted millions, has established industry and thrift where there was only indolence and mere animal existence before. Mistakes have been made and work has been done that yielded no results, but, on the whole, missionary work has been well done and the thrusts of sensationalists will not put an end to the missionary societies.

Reports from the large manufacturing cities of the country indicate that the activity in the iron and steel trade continues and gives promise of great things in the present year. Foreign contracts involving large sums are being made, both for the raw metal and for manufactured products. American manufacturers have demonstrated to the world that they can compete with the manufacturers of any other country with a fair chance and large contracts are seldom placed without at least a consultation with the Americans.

European war correspondents who followed the war on the Grecian frontier and were familiar with the events leading up to that war agree that there was a time when Lord Salisbury might have averted the war by prompt and decisive action in favor of the oppressed Armenians and Cretans; but Salisbury did nothing. Now all eyes are turned again toward Lord Salisbury to see what he will do toward saving the Chinese empire and preserving British trade in the Orient, but the indications are he will do nothing.

A Display of Infirmities.
Philadelphia Times.

Supposing his opponents did shoot that Georgia editor, there'd be no impropriety in his paper referring to it in double-leaded matter.

Objections Overruled.
Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Chicago court announces that it wants no mere oratory. Is there anybody now who still insists that the courts should not be abolished along with plutocracy, yellow fever, soap and hives?

Evidence of Progress.
Springfield Republican.

Persons who think the negro race has made no substantial progress should pause and contemplate the fact that a new brick cotton mill, having from 7,000 to 10,000 spindles, and owned exclusively by colored people, is nearly completed at Concord, N. C. It will be in operation by April 1. "A monument to the enterprise and thrift of the colored people of the old North state," some say—and such it is.

Better Than the Klondike.
Portland Oregonian.

In spite of all feverish haste to be rich, maugre all Klondike crazes, and all socialistic crazes pursued by those who expect or hope in some magical or indefinable way to live off society, with little personal effort, it is still a truth, and ever will be a truth, that the rewards of this world will go to those who earn them by slow, patient, steady industry; by careful, prudent, calculating endeavor; by painstaking application, temperate living and slow saving.

Ah, There's the Rub!
Philadelphia Record.

The souvenir medal to be issued by the Transmississippi Exposition will show on its reverse a typical Indian, mounted on a pony and spearing a buffalo. On the obverse side will be a profile of a woman's head which is to be a characteristic type of the women of the far west, to which end a composite picture will be made of the forty-eight most beautiful women in the transmississippi region. The idea at first glance looks capital. But who shall be rash enough to pick out the beauties?

Agrarians and Their Bugs.
Philadelphia Record.

And now the German agrarians have found a new danger lurking in an American product. The Agricultural society of Berlin has addressed a memorial to the government requesting the exclusion of American fruit, trees and shrubs because they are infected with the San Jose bug, "which," say the memorialists, "is a constant danger to German fruit growers." It is wonderful how many of the infliction, under which, if real, our agriculturists would be weighed down, are first brought to our notice by the lynx-eyed Germans.

Blowing Vanderbilt Millions.
Chicago Chronicle.

Except by expending their money in charity—which they are not likely to do—our American millionaires can probably contribute more to the general good by building themselves royal castles than in any other way. The tendency of rich men in this direction is not to be discouraged. The building of these palaces involves the expenditure of large sums of money which would not get into circulation in any other way. Their maintenance involves further outlay and all the money expended remains in this country. It is creditable to the rich men who are indulging a taste for castle building that they prefer to spend their money in the United States rather than buy Scottish deer forests, Belgravian mansions and English estates in a feeble effort to ape British aristocracy.

"Pluck-Me" Stores Abandoned.
Minneapolis Journal.

One gratifying feature of the industrial situation during the year just closing is the abandonment by a number of large employers in the Pennsylvania coal regions of the company stores which bind the miners to trade their wages away for the commodities sold them and they deny them the right to trade where they can trade most advantageously. The employers who maintain these company stores do so in the face of a state law which requires them to pay their employes semi-monthly and in cash and which forbids the gouge game practiced by the company stores. Yet the employers have violated these laws and set an example of lawlessness to their men. Every employer continuing this lawlessness against his workmen should have the law drawn on him like a sharp sword.

SEALS AND SEALING.

Washington Star: The idea of keeping sealskins taken by Canadians out of this country seems to be based on the assumption that a sealskin is harder to smuggle than a Chinaman.

Philadelphia Press: Great Britain flatly declines to regulate pelagic sealing until the close of the treaty term in 1898 and more stringent regulations will be refused then. The herd is doomed and the quicker it is cleared out on the Pribylov Islands the better.

New York Commercial: Great Britain's refusal to stop pelagic sealing leaves the United States entirely free to act in the matter as it deems wisest for its own interests. Lord Salisbury declares that Great Britain is little concerned in the affair, and if this is the view he takes there would seem to be nothing left for President McKinley but to sign the Pelagic sealing bill now awaiting his action. This will demonstrate whether the British premier is sincere or is making a feint for ulterior effect. In case of the former, the law would tend at any rate to build up the seal dressing and manufacturing industry in this country, the greatest market on the globe for sealskin garments.

Chicago Post: President McKinley signed the bill prohibiting the killing of fur seals in the waters of the north Pacific ocean. This bill prohibits the killing of seals by American citizens except on the Pribyloff islands. The most interesting part of the bill is that which prohibits the importation of all sealskins taken from animals killed in the open seas. This, its proposers believe, will close the most profitable market in the world to the products of pelagic sealing. Under the law the burden of proof that imported sealskins were not taken in prohibited waters rests with the exporter. Unless such a certificate accompanies the invoice the collector of customs will seize and destroy all sealskins entering the country.

Minneapolis Journal: As the Canadian determination to slaughter our seals where they find them in the high seas means their speedy extermination, since they kill the females indiscriminately, it will be better to distroy the herds at the breeding place on the Pribyloff islands. The statistics presented at the seal conference, at Washington, showed a sure and steady decrease which soon must end in the obliteration of the seals, if Canadian poaching goes on. It is to be regretted that our government will have to pay $450,000 agreed to by the arbitration board to Great Britain for the Canadian poachers. It is also unfortunate that Canada under the liberal administrations sees fit to be an ill-natured and disagreeable neighbor. But she will regret it some day.

MEXICO'S GREATEST DRAWBACK.

Effect of Cheap Labor and Cheap Money on National Vitality.
Baltimore American.

An American traveler has returned from Mexico, disgusted with the country, not because it is not a rich country, for he says it can be made so, but the labor is so unskilled and the silver money is so worthless that he prefers less wages in the United States with the certainty of bettering his condition. A man receiving $150 a month cannot do as well as on $75 a month in this country. Unskilled labor is paid 25 cents a day. The same sort of labor here would receive 75 cents, or, in some cases, $1 a day. What is wanted the traveler thinks, is the progressive American in the new republic and the gold standard. Mr. Bryan, provided he is open to conviction, is learning a powerful lesson in that country just now. Mexico is improving, notwithstanding the drawbacks. The increased facilities in railroads and in steamboat lines, due largely to American capital, have operated favorably, but the incubus of silver is keenly felt.

The secretary of the treasury in Mexico estimates that the government's receipts for the fiscal year 1898-9 will be $52,109,500, and the expenditures $52 089,484, which will not leave the president a large margain for reaching-out purposes. In consequence of the higher rate of exchange the interest on the public debt has increased $600,000.

For the purposes of contrast it may be stated that the value of all the products in the state of Iowa this year will be nearly $200,000,000—nearly four times as much as the whole receipts of all Mexico, as estimated by its secretary of the treasury.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Suppose the stomach is not a vital organ. What of it? It is a matter of common notoriety that countless numbers of heartless people thrive and wax fat without that vital organ, and persistently refuse to immortalize themselves by shuffling off.

"The indulgent care with which Providence watches over fools," as Henry Watterson remarked, was illustrated at Fort Scott, Kan., recently, when a forgetful man built a fire in a stove, on top of which he had left a can of kerosene and a package of powder, and neither exploded.

At the session of the Academie des Sciences, held at Paris on December 13, the Cuvier prize of 1,500 francs was awarded to Prof. O. C. Marsh of Yale university. This prize is "awarded every three years for the most remarkable work either on the animal kingdom or on geology."

Actor Ratcliffe, the idol of New York matinee girls, has been sent to Sing Sing for six months. The court was indeed considerate. A man who testified that his wife threatened to brain him with a teaspoon is fortunate in being put out of harm's way until his better half cools down.

The Illustrated American prints a remarkable specimen of French realism in its last number. In it the characteristic features of the sultan of Turkey, tipped with red ink, are in close communion with a shadowy skeleton. Abdul Hamid is generally credited with possessing a varied assortment of skeletons in his closets. Recent events prove that they do not interfere materially with his enjoyment of the concert of the powers.

Liberty is sorely harassed these days. It is now proposed to suppress snoring in sleeping cars; government officials threaten to forbid newly-arrived passengers from Europe to kiss their friends at the piers. Lebanon (Pa.) officials have interdicted the eating of sauerkraut by trolley car employes while on duty, and last, but not least, New York's finest are forbidden to scratch itching palms on their backs. Whither are we drifting?

The most charming sample of reciprocity is running loose in Kansas. Editor Davies of the Concordia Kansan is minus his left leg. Editor Campbell of the Hanover Democrat has no right leg. Every Christmas each buys a pair of shoes. Davies presents the left to Campbell and Campbell sends the right to Davies. Thus have they maintained the spirit of "peace and good will" for years past, and ennobled the profession by an interchange of soles.

Three of Chicago's eminent aldermen are justly indignant at the ingratitude of the community. They have been indicted for maintaining gambling houses. Truly the lot of a municipal solon is not a happy one. People are not content with an exhausting expenditure of gray matter in their behalf. They pursue the weary statesman to his place of business and rudely break in upon the diverting joy of a "quiet game" of poker. Is it any wonder that aspirants for aldermanic honors are growing dangerously scarce?

A member of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan denies the report that Minister Angell will soon return from Turkey to resume the presidency of the university. He says: "From word that we have received from Constantinople, both directly and indirectly, we consider it most probable that he will not return to his former position at the head of the University of Michigan at the end of the year's leave of absence given him. We do not expect him, and, in fact, will consider it odd if he should give up the duties of his present position to return to the university.

Sergeant Joyce of the Chicago police enlivens official reports with a dash of originality deserving of a better fate than musty files. For instance: "At 1 o'clock this morning John Kane of 3405 Wabash avenue reported that at 7 o'clock in the evening he went into Julius McNamara's saloon at Fifth avenue and Monroe street and a man opened Kane's vest to examine the development of his thorax. He congratulated Mr. Kane on the beautiful symmetry of his neck and informed him that his respiratory organs and lung power were unparalleled. In assisting to fasten the garment he took Mr. Kane's pocketbook, containing $60, through some mysterious manipulation similar to the encyclopedic conjuring of Herrmann. After Mr. Kane realized that he was minus $60 he recollected his examination by the suave stranger in the saloon and the problem was solved. Respectfully submitted."

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Chicago Times-Herald: Two Iowa girls who took offense at certain statements in a recent sermon waylaid the minister afterward and gave him a cowhiding in public. This, of course, proved beyond any question that they really are "perfect ladies."

Chicago Chronicle: Having been made the subject of a foul-mouthed and vituperative attack by "Rev." Thomas Dixon of New York, President McKinley can congratulate himself that his administration is at least a partial success. Dixon's enmity is a sure sign of merit upon the part of its object.

New York Herald: A colored clergyman in Elizabeth, N. J., whose congregation has not paid him his full salary, is turning an honest penny selling Christmas trees in the street. That's better than being examined in supplementary proceedings on a grocery bill, anyhow, as recently happened to a New York pastor.

Springfield Republican: A sermon against murder was preached in nearly every pulpit of the Episcopal, Baptist and Methodist churches in South Carolina last Sunday, in the hope that popular sentiment might be more sternly aroused against the killing habit, which so alarmingly afflicts the state. The main trouble with such an effort is that the "kill 'em" population do not much attend church.

Chicago Tribune: President McKinley is probably not the only man who is annoyed by "being preached at." The least effective preaching is that which singles out an individual subject and holds him up for the contemplation of a public audience. The president has ordinarily been regarded as a moral, well-behaved citizen, and scarcely needs to be specially instructed as to his duties in public any more than that the offenses and shortcomings of others should be exploited for his benefit.

MARKETS FOR AMERICAN LABOR.

New Fields Ripe for a Harvest of Enterprise.
Boston Globe.

The American consul at Shanghai warns American mechanics and railroad men not to come to China for employment. Not only are the Chinese proverbially averse to foreigners, but in reality they have but two railroads in operation, with a total mileage of less than 300.

The best field now in sight, if one desires to seek mechanical industry far away, is Russia. Not only does Russia need 10,000 locomotives and several hundred thousand cars, but she is going to have them. A single American company has taken an order for several hundred locomotives, of which 100 are to be delivered in the shortest possible time. This order has involved the construction, on the banks of the Volga, of a shop employing 5,000 workmen.

Russia is open for the most splendid exercise of the talents of the engineer throughout the whole range of his profession. No country is so ripe for the introduction of engines, electric machinery and machine tools, such as belong to the new mechanisms.

The French have a realization of this, and are striving to utilize the opportunity. But Americans have not only the best "pull" with the government, but the best machinery, skill and appliances.

Still, Russia is cold, prices of living are said to be high, and personal liberty is still much restrained. The man who has a fair chance in New England cannot do better than stay where he is and encourage home industry.

DOMESTIC IDYLS.

Somerville Journal: "Darling," he exclaimed passionately, "I will do anything for you."

"Well, then," she answered, "if that is really true, go off and search for Andree."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Has she left her husband long?"

"I think he was left pretty short."

Chicago Record: "How gracefully your daughter touches the piano!"

"Huh! You ought to see her touch me for holiday money!"

Detroit Free Press: "How long did you know your wife before you married her, Grims?"

"Not a minute. Don't know her yet. Never will know her."

Chicago Tribune: Rapturous Youth—Darling, my salary is $20 a week. Do you think you could live on that?

His Affianced—Why, yes, George, I can get along on that. But what'll you live on?

Indianapolis Journal: "Men's promises," the young wife said between sobs, "are like pie crust—"

"That's tough," said the young husband, and then she got angry enough to cry.

Philadelphia Bulletin: "George," she said, "is your watch going?"

"Yes," he said, "of course."

"Oh!" she said, "is it? When?"

And he actually knew enough to go, too.

Pick-Me-Up: He—Nearly all the misers reported in the papers, I notice, are single men.

She—Oh, yes, of course. Married misers are too common to be worth mentioning.

Yonkers Statesman: Mrs. Crimsonbeak—If you say you never made a mistake in your life, you state what is not a fact.

Mr. Crimsonbeak—Well, you needn't throw my marrying you in my face so much.

Boston Transcript: Maude—Do you know, I really believe that Tom is going to propose.

Bertha—I noticed that he was looking terribly sad about something or other, but then, you know, dear, it may not be that. Perhaps his mother is sick, or possibly he isn't feeling well himself.

Household Words: Magistrate—You will admit that you entered the house of the prosecuting witness by the door at 2 o'clock in the morning?

Prisoner—Yes, your honor.

"What business had you there at that time of night?"

"I thought it was my own house."

"Then why did you, when this lady approached, leap through the window, jump into the cistern and hide yourself?"

"Your honor, I thought it was my wife."

SMALL BEGINNINGS.

Charles Mackay.

A traveler on a dusty road strewed acorns
on the lea;
And one took root and sprouted up and
grew into a tree.
Love sought its shade at evening time, to
breathe its early vows,
And age was pleased in heats of noon to
hook beneath its boughs;
The dormouse loved its dangling twigs, the
birds sweet music bore;
It stood a glory in its place, a blessing evermore.

A little spring had lost its way among the
grass and fern,
A passing stranger scooped a well where
weary men might turn;
He walled it in, and hung with care a ladle
at the brink;
He thought not of the deed he did, but
judged that toil might drink.
He passed again, and lo! the well, by summers
never dried,
Had cooled ten thousand parching tongues,
and saved a life beside.

A dreamer dropped a random thought; 'twas
old and yet 'twas new;
A simple fancy of the brain, but strong in
being true.
It shone upon the genial mind, and lo! its
light became
A lamp of life, a beacon ray, a monitory
flame.
The thought was small, its issue great, a
watchfire on the hill;
It sheds its radiance far adown, and cheers
the valley still.

A nameless man amid a crowd that
thronged the daily mart
Let fall a word of hope and love, unstudied,
from the heart.
A whisper on the tumult thrown—a transitory breath—
It raised a brother from the dust, it saved
a soul from death;
O germ! O fount! O word of love! O
thought at random cast!
Ye were but little at the first, but mighty
at the last.

ITS SAD FATE.

Chicago Tribune.

Last cockroach of autumn,
Left crawling alone—
Its measly companions
All frozen and gone—
Not one of its kindred,
No other bug nigh,
To join it in raiding
The pantry for pie!

I'll not leave thee, forlorn one,
In sadness to roam
Through the long, long night
In thy cold kitchen home.
And so with this poker
I crush thee, thou pest,
Go, get off the planet,
Along with the rest!