

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas county, ss.: George B. Tschuck, 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 February, 1898, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Copies, Paid, Unpaid. Rows include Total, Paid, Unpaid, and Net total sales.

Let every one remember that it is St. Patrick's day in the morning.

The remaining undistributed surplus of that \$2,000 charity fund is a standing contradiction of the calamity howler.

Confidence is general that this is going to be a good year for Nebraska and the west, and what is more, this confidence has a substantial basis.

The applications for 45,661 patents during the year 1897 stand as conclusive proof that American intellects are bright and in good working order every day of the year.

St. Patrick's day should remind every Irish-American in this country that while he was born in Ireland he has voluntarily transferred his allegiance to the United States of America.

It will be noticed that Governor Holcomb has had more to explain in the newspapers since he began his second term than all his predecessors in the gubernatorial chair together.

If the way to political preferment with Governor Holcomb is by way of the boodle legislative lobby what hopes can the honest populists have who have espoused the party for reform?

An early adjournment of congress is not now expected, but a few more unanimous votes on roll call will make it unnecessary for many republican members to repair political fences at home.

Omaha has had the headquarters of this military department ever since it was organized and there is no good reason why it should not retain them irrespective of recent boundary changes.

The Transmississippi Exposition throws its gates open to the world June 1. Not only will there be no postponement but everyone who visits it on the first day will get full return for his admission fee.

What is human life worth? A reward of \$15,000 is offered for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of an Idaho man. Yet in many states a limit of \$5,000 is placed on the damages recoverable for the killing of husband or father.

The newspaper fence that proclaimed Mr. Holla to be honest after he had admitted himself an embezzler is accusing its Lincoln annex of standing up for dishonest public officers. The pot calling the kettle black is the only parallel.

Railroads are carrying the Klondikers to the Pacific coast at cut rates, but a steamship sailed from one of the ports a few days ago bound for Alaska with nearly half the passenger berths empty. Midwinter estimates on the size of the Klondike rush must have been overdrawn.

Better appoint a few women to the police force. They seem to be making much bigger inroads on the swarms of burglars than the police. A police force composed of women could in no event certainly be less effective than the present force under its inefficient management and direction.

The new city charter properly surrounds the granting of franchises to privileged corporations with conditions of reimbursement to the public dictated by long and costly experience. Because the taxpayers have been several times hounded by smooth franchise grabbers is only added reason why they must guard against a repetition of the game.

The argument put forth by Leavenworth for the location of military department headquarters in that city is that it is the natural headquarters city. Strangely enough, too, Kansas City's claims are also based on the assertion that it is the natural headquarters city. Nature must have been extraordinarily prolific when it was generating headquarters cities.

The program for the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of New Mexico by the Spaniards might properly include a general exhibit showing by maps and diagrams just what Spanish conquest and colonization has done for the western world. The original town the Spaniards founded 300 years ago is not much more of a town now than it was after the first decade and its history comes near to being typical of Spanish history.

WAITING FOR THE FINDINGS.

Repeated statements by the authorities at Washington, including the president himself, that there is nothing at hand as yet to indicate what will be the nature of the findings of the Maine board of inquiry, do not silence the correspondents who have been telling the public that the government is in possession of information conclusively showing that the disaster to the Maine was caused by external force. These industrious and vigilant gentlemen persist in asserting that the authorities know the explosion was not an accident and that they are fully aware of what the report of the board of inquiry will be.

A measure of credibility was given the newspaper statements by the article in the last issue of the Army and Navy Register, which stated that that publication was in possession of information that certain evidence gathered by the board of inquiry at Havana had come in a semi-official form to the president from two members of the board and that the information was that the Maine was destroyed by a government submarine mine, planted in Havana harbor and deliberately exploded. It was further said by the register that it appeared from the information that the Maine was purposely moored in the vicinity of the mine and that the explosion occurred at the moment when the ship had been apparently carried by wind and tide directly over the mine. This from so reputable and responsible a source was widely accepted as well founded, yet subsequent to its publication President McKinley authorized the statement to be made that the executive had not had any communication from any person directly or indirectly connected with the court of inquiry either as to the character of the evidence gathered or the probable findings of the board and this was repeated in effect by a member of the cabinet only two days ago. The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, however, one of the most careful and trustworthy of the newspaper men at the national capital, says: "In spite of denials that the president and his cabinet have received information of what the findings of the Maine board of inquiry are to be, there is no reason whatever to doubt that they have been for more than a week past possessed of information, if not through official channels, yet from officials themselves, that the explosion in Havana harbor was due to external force." The correspondent further says that there is little reason to doubt that the emergency preparations for defense were based at the outset upon such information.

These contradictory statements are confusing to the public, but the general disposition will be to accept that of the authorities. The unqualified statement of the president, the secretary of the navy and other members of the cabinet, that they have received no information indicating what the finding of the court of inquiry will be, must be accepted as true. There is plausibility in the theory that the active preparations for possible war were based at the outset upon information that the Maine disaster was due to an external agency, but it is not conclusive. At all events there is no need of any excitement pending the report of the board of inquiry, which ought not to be much longer delayed. The country should wait calmly and patiently for the facts, knowing that the government is preparing as vigorously as possible for whatever emergency shall come and confident that the president will do his duty faithfully and fearlessly.

GENERAL MILLES ON WAR.

General Miles does not favor war. He has expressed the hope, in the presence of the veterans of the Second army corps, that there will be no war, but he said if war should come "we will be prepared, so that the conflict will be short, sharp and decisive." This from the commanding general of the army, who is familiar with all that is going on in the way of preparation, should be reassuring to the country so far as the matter of readiness is concerned. It is a fact that the nation is in condition to make a conflict with Spain "short, sharp and decisive" there has been great work done within the past month, for it is not more than a month since it was generally thought that the United States was ill-prepared for war with even so weak a power as Spain.

But granting that we are now well prepared for hostilities it may reasonably be doubted whether a war with Spain would be as easy a contest as is implied in the remark of General Miles, with all due deference to his military judgment. Unquestionably the conflict would be decisive. Spain would lose her West India possessions, her naval power would be destroyed, her commerce would be swept from the sea and she would suffer general disaster. But the sharp fighting would not be all on our side nor would we come out of the conflict without some loss—possibly a great deal more than most of our people have any idea of. Neither can we be quite sure that the conflict would be short, the probability rather being that it would be protracted—that is, that it would last from six months to a year. Every American citizen is properly confident in the ability of the United States to vanquish Spain, but it is a mistake to think that a war with that country would be a holiday affair.

THE COUNTY TAX ASSESSMENT.

On the point of commencing their work of preparing the new county tax assessment, the assessors give it out that they will this year endeavor to place the same valuations on taxable property as were returned last year. Duplicating last year's assessment rolls may serve the purpose of lightening the labors of the assessors, but it certainly cannot fulfill the letter and spirit of the law, which requires assessors to return each year all taxable property, real and personal, at its just and true valuation at the time the assessment is made.

While the ratio of assessed valuation to true valuation adopted is of minor consequence, the recent city assessment made under direction of the tax commissioner for the city of Omaha affords conclusive proof that vast amount of property properly subject to taxation has been regularly omitted from the tax

lists by the county assessors. The discrimination practiced in favor of the franchised corporations and other large property owners and against the small merchant and home owner has been no means perfect and leaves much room yet for improvement, but a comparison with the tax lists upon which the county levy is based will disclose great blocks of property that has hitherto in some way managed to escape taxation.

This is particularly true with respect to personal property. The present assessment of personal property by the assessors is simply a farce. It imposes a penalty upon the honest and conscientious citizen who lists his property correctly and gives perjurers a premium upon tax shirking and tax evasion. Instead of making the owners of personal property bear their share of the burdens of government, it relieves them almost entirely and throws double weight on the shoulders of real estate owners. The beneficiaries of this system, of course, will have no objections to its perpetuation, but every year of its continuance raises new outrages against its patent injustice.

It rests with the county assessors to give us at least a measure of tax reform. If in making up their tax lists they will take the city assessment as a guide, improve upon it where it may be defective, and add property it may have omitted, they can, even with the lower ratio of valuation, equalize the tax burdens by placing them more where they belong. This is the sworn duty of the assessors and they should live up to it rigidly.

THE TREATY ABANDONED.

The senate foreign relations committee has abandoned the Hawaiian annexation treaty and reported to the senate a joint resolution for the acquisition of the islands. This disposition of the matter was not unexpected, it having been understood for a month or two past that the required two-thirds vote to ratify the treaty could not be secured. Though the annexationists have been reluctant to concede this, when congress met in December the supporters of the treaty were very confident of its ratification and the situation at that time did appear very favorable to them, but the very thorough discussion of annexation in the press and in congress weakened the ranks of its supporters, the fallacy of whose arguments were easily and conclusively shown. Senators who were favorable to the acquisition of Hawaii when the treaty was sent to the senate upon more careful deliberation arrayed themselves against it, while there has been a very decided increase in popular sentiment adverse to annexing this remote territory, with its ignorant and motley population, nine-tenths of which is utterly unfit for American citizenship. There is not a reasonable doubt that a very large majority of the American people are uncompromisingly opposed to Hawaiian annexation.

In proposing to acquire the islands by resolution the question will be discussed in both branches of congress, so that the annexationists will not have whatever advantage there may have been in debating it behind closed doors. To pass a resolution only a majority vote is necessary and doubtless this can be obtained in the senate, but it is by no means certain that the resolution can be brought to a vote in that body at the present session. The opposition to annexation is strong enough to prolong discussion of the subject indefinitely and it is to be expected that it will take full advantage of its privileges. But assuming that the annexation resolution passes the senate at this session there is not much probability that it would receive consideration in the house. Probably a majority of that body favor annexation, but republican leaders who exert the greatest influence upon the course of legislation are not favorable to it and these are very likely to be found adverse to the consideration of the question at the present session. The fight against annexation was more than half won when the treaty was abandoned.

THE TRUE REFORM PARTY.

The session of the Iowa legislature now nearly ended has been productive of several valuable object lessons which the people of the state will not overlook. One of these relates to the board of control bill, which proposes a revolution in the manner of conducting the various state penal, charitable and educational institutions. The credit for attracting the attention of the state to the necessity for a departure from the old system of local boards belongs to Horace Boies, who, as governor, strongly urged it upon the legislature. It is true that two other governors had endorsed the change, but that at a time when the necessity for it was not great. But Governor Boies accomplished nothing, for even the members of his own party failed to respond to his call, and the fact that he urged it largely as a party measure prevented republicans from helping.

The present legislature, overwhelmingly republican in both branches, and with a republican governor in the executive office, has prepared a board of control bill that has passed one branch and will in all likelihood pass the other. This bill embodies the best features suggested by all who have favored the change. The chief argument in favor of the bill is that it will result in more economical management of the state institutions and its advocates estimate that it will effect a saving of many thousands of dollars annually to the taxpayers. It is contended also that under the board of control system the danger of extraordinary appropriations for state institutions becoming larger than the condition of the state treasury will warrant will be greatly lessened. It is a reform measure, and in its present form it is the work of the republican legislators, without whose approval it could not have had even a hearing, much less a chance of becoming a law.

The history of this measure illustrates anew the fact which has been many times before impressed upon the American people that the republican party is the only party to which they can appeal with confidence for necessary and wholesome legislative reforms.

New socialistic societies are being formed every year for the purpose of

establishing colonies in which property will be held for the benefit of all and every person will be the equal of every other. The prospective abandonment of the famous Zanesville community in Ohio ought to be an instructive lesson to the visionaries who dream of perfect equality. The Zanesville own 7,000 acres of land and when the division of property is made among the seventy-two members remaining out of the original 500 property worth over \$3,000,000 will be distributed. If a community cannot exist with such a nest egg why start off others with practically nothing?

While the United States is being buying war ships abroad the British government has been making over contracts with an American firm for armor plate for war vessels. One company has just secured a British contract for a large amount of armor plate. Americans may be slow about building a big navy in a time of peace, but American workshops turn out the best there is of everything, including defensive armor. The skill of American workmen alone would be of great value to Uncle Sam in case of a prolonged conflict with another nation.

The time is ripe for another triple-signet order for the popocrats to get together and save the country. Some of them are still engaged in trying to convince the public that President McKinley lacks courage and patriotism because of his reluctance to plunge the country into ill-advised war, and others are equally sure that the war scare is nothing but a base Wall street conspiracy to provide a popular issue for the campaign. Where is Chairman Jones and his lieutenants in this emergency?

Making all due allowance for the padding of his order book, the statement of a Chicago traveling man that in ten weeks he took orders in England for \$1,000,000 worth of American goods, is one that encourages the belief that there was some error about that old free trade theory that a tariff cannot keep foreign goods out without at the same time keeping home made goods in.

Utah Worth the Price.

Senator Proctor is right. The readiness of the south to fight for the nation is worth all the other preparations for war save cost, and vastly more.

Steel for British Ships.

American shops have begun to help in the manufacture of the British navy. The Carnegie company has received an order for 5,000 tons of plates for the hulls of ships. This is the kind of Anglo-American alliance we like.

Pingree's Startling Reform.

"No railroad passes!" cries Pingree warning to Michigan. They are under old-fashioned and narrow-minded Pingree law. Why, if he had his way, it is more than likely that a man holding a political office would not be permitted to take any more than his salary.

Spilling a Little Game.

The two United States army officers who were recalled from Monte Carlo will, of course, be sent back to their regiments for Uncle Sam to have his fighting talent at hand, but that under the circumstances it is just as well not to let any more loose change of fighting men into the country than is absolutely necessary.

No Bargaining for Cuba.

The United States has twice offered to buy Cuba at a liberal price, and Spain has twice rejected the offer and resented it as little short of insulting. The only course is to be able to endure a third rejection, but it would not be generous to offer Spain a third time to sell her island. She has made the overtures should come from Spain.

First Honors of War.

The first honors in the war with Cuba seem to have been won by Hon. William Alden Smith, congressman from Michigan, who, single handed, routed the Spanish soldiers in Havana who had manifested their lack of respect for the American statesman by jeering at him as he passed. He is a real semi-barbarian, these uncouth Castilians could not be expected to show their respect for such a badge of a higher civilization, and he is to be congratulated for his hero of the exploit, but exactly what form of honor he should receive is a matter that has not been decided.

SPAIN'S CUBAN BALANCE SHEET.

The session of the Iowa legislature now nearly ended has been productive of several valuable object lessons which the people of the state will not overlook. One of these relates to the board of control bill, which proposes a revolution in the manner of conducting the various state penal, charitable and educational institutions. The credit for attracting the attention of the state to the necessity for a departure from the old system of local boards belongs to Horace Boies, who, as governor, strongly urged it upon the legislature. It is true that two other governors had endorsed the change, but that at a time when the necessity for it was not great. But Governor Boies accomplished nothing, for even the members of his own party failed to respond to his call, and the fact that he urged it largely as a party measure prevented republicans from helping.

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DUTY OF THIS COUNTRY.

Justification for Intervention. New York Sun.

Neither delay nor arbitration is excusable in the case of Cuba. The United States have had for several years full justification for intervention. Whatever the report of the Maine court of inquiry it will remain not only our moral right, but our political duty to say to Spain that the day of her rule in the western hemisphere is over. There are perhaps various roads leading to that result, but some may be shorter and better than others.

After the Report, What?

Before Easter the result of the court of inquiry into the Maine disaster should be known. It is almost certain to declare external agencies as the procuring cause of the disaster, and in that case Spain must pay damages whether unauthorized parties blew up the ship or not. The demand for damages will bring affairs to a crisis. Spain must either pay or submit the question of damages to arbitration (possibly) and the wisdom of our policy of preparation will be made manifest by a policy of peace and Uncle Sam has to be strong and card. The Cuban question will not carry us another year.

Not a Cause of War.

The apprehension that the finding of the Board of inquiry will give cause for the demand for reparation for the destruction and indemnity that may lead to war, is therefore not unreasonable; but it should be remembered that even if our war ship was destroyed by external agency, the question of damages to arbitration (possibly) and the wisdom of our policy of preparation will be made manifest by a policy of peace and Uncle Sam has to be strong and card. The Cuban question will not carry us another year.

Critical Questions.

We do not here discuss the larger Cuban problem and the possibilities connected with it. That will come in its turn. If the questions of the Maine are not speedily adjusted it will be interwoven with the larger one. It shall be satisfactorily settled, it will in any event press for early consideration. The march of events, the temper of the American people and the disposition of government will not permit its long postponement. But in the light of present discussion there is enough in the destruction of the Maine to raise very critical questions. We may be very sure that the president, while yielding no right and sacrificing no honor, will most earnestly desire and seek to maintain peace. He will take no position which is not clearly right as he will shrink from none which is plainly necessary. The demands of honor will be met, but not on the attitude and policy of the Spanish government, and that will be developed by events.

Indemnity for the Disaster.

The question presented in the Maine affair seems to be how far the laches of the Spanish authorities? Could they, with reasonable care, have prevented the diabolical purpose of the assassin or assassins who fired the mine? They are under any circumstances guilty of constructive negligence, and answerable for it; but they may, as many think, have largely contributed to the disaster by imprudently negligence. This would accord with what is known of Spanish administration, especially on the island of Cuba. A government which has wasted the tremendous resources placed at the disposal of the Cuban administration, with nothing on earth to show but devastation and starvation, would not be likely to take the most reasonable precautions for the safety of foreign ships.

WAR FEVERS WORLD-WIDE.

Philadelphia Press: War measures in the present stage of civilization are peace measures. England's proposed expenditure of \$18,000,000 for naval purposes is rather a proof England's growth in commerce than an indication of preparation for war. Last year England spent over \$100,000,000 on a recruiting force, but she did it to guard a merchant marine aggregating 8,000,000 tons, and a total foreign trade of more than \$4,000,000,000 a year. England is not a belated nation. Trade, not war, is the heart of her civilization.

Pittsburg Dispatch: One of the striking features of the situation over almost the entire world this week has been the unanimity of the nations in making extraordinary provisions for war, and especially for naval war. For twenty years the European powers have spent money like water in preparation for a war that has not yet come, and now in a single week they devote an additional sum that exceeds in its total all that Europe spent in years of Napoleonic wars. And there are absolutely no grounds of cessation except in the warning conveyed in the very magnitude of the sums that the limit must be reached somewhere.

Philadelphia Inquirer: Germany is expending \$95,000,000 in the building of battleships and cruisers. England is to make additions to her already powerful fleet, and her naval budget for 1898-99 is \$127,000,000. Russia has set apart \$70,000,000 for new ships, and it is suspected that a great shipbuilding yard is to be laid out at Port Arthur, possibly under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Cramp, who is now speeding eastward across the Atlantic. France is making plans for building vessels at an expense of about \$50,000,000, while Japan is hurrying to completion a very great addition to its navy which is already an imposing one.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican: When one considers the extraordinary condition of the world in these closing years of the nineteenth century he may easily be startled by the possibilities of an almost universal war arising from the present struggle between the United States and Spain. It is often said and generally believed in this country that Spain would have no allies in war with ourselves because Russia, concerned by the European situation, and Russia is not only a traditional friend of the United States, but at present the ally of the United States. France, the greatest of Russia's rivals for the mastery of the Orient. If Russia really seeks our favor, the support of Spain by France, the most natural ally of the Spanish monarchy, is an impossibility, because of the supreme purpose of French statesmanship is the maintenance of the Russian alliance. Even Germany would not venture to ally itself with Spain, for it has the risk of incurring the displeasure of the czar.

SIENS OF THE TIMES.

It is not so easy to get into the United States artillery regiments as is generally supposed. Out of 120 applicants for enlistment in the New York last Saturday only four were accepted.

The new battery at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., is ready for service. It consists of five ten-inch rifles, all of the latest type, mounted on disappearing carriages. Each gun weighs 61,000 pounds and is about thirty feet long. The carriage of each weighs 20,000 pounds. The shells weigh 850 pounds each and each carries 425 pounds of powder, with a bursting charge of thirty pounds. The velocity of the shell is 2,100 feet a second. The energy of the muzzle is 15,355 foot tons, which gives the projectile power to pierce twenty inches of hardest steel at the muzzle, at the distance of 2,500 yards from the gun the shell would have a speed of 1,724 feet a second. The battery is supplied from the most modern magazines, which are under the guns.

The steam yacht Ellide, which has been secured by the government for a torpedo boat is said to be the fastest boat in the world. It has a record of forty miles an hour and could easily distance any vessel afloat.

Heroic Bill Anthony, the marine orderly of the Maine, who sprang into instant fame when, after the explosion and wreck of the war ship, hastened to Captain Stetson and saluting, said: "Sir, I have to inform you that the ship has been blown up and is sinking," wrote a letter to a Chicago girl in which he says: "To see, day by day, comrades taken from the wreck of what was once the very embodiment of strength and beauty is sore indeed, but, dear lady, I will not weep as I look at the destruction of the banner of freedom will be unfurled on the battlements of El Morro and Cabanana; when American womanhood will greet the return of husbands, sons, you fathers, who went forth to avenge the foul murder of Yankee seamen while lying unconscious of danger in a supposedly friendly port. But nothing can ever restore to their loved ones those who are gone. They rest, but are not forgotten. I am a witness before the naval court. I can't tell you how the horrible affair has affected me, but I already know. If I should ever meet I hope to tell you in detail of its horrors."

Requirements of men seeking enlistment in the new artillery regiments authorized by congress is very exacting. Applicants must be not less than 21 years old, unmarried, sound physically and able to read and write the English language. Boys between the ages of 16 and 18 may be enlisted if they are recommended by their parents or guardians or the consent.

The requirements in relation to height, weight, chest measurement, etc., are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Height, Weight, Chest Measurement, and another column. Rows include 5-4 1/2, 5-5 1/2, 5-6 1/2, 5-7 1/2, 5-8 1/2, 5-9 1/2, 5-10 1/2, 5-11 1/2, 5-12 1/2, 6-1 1/2.

If the United States secures the Chilean man-of-war O'Higgins it will have a ship bearing the honored name of a man who was leader in the Chilean revolt against Spain. The first, Ambrose, or Ambrosio, went to that country from Ireland in 1730, became captain general of the army and died at the time of his death. His son, Bernardo, became leader of the Chilean patriots, achieved a great victory over Spain, was named supreme dictator of Chile and proclaimed the independence of the country.

THE QUESTION OF PROFITS.

How is the Original Cost of Railroads to be Determined?

The supreme court of the United States in its decision on the Nebraska maximum rate case holds that it has jurisdiction, though the case involved only the rates for carrying the imperial majesty of the United States. Nebraska. It asserts jurisdiction on the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution, which provides that no state shall deprive any person of property without due process of law. Corporations are persons in the intention of law.

The state right to fix charges is not without limit and the court holds that the Nebraska rates were unreasonably low. They were fixed at about 30 per cent below the rates made by the roads. Altogether that is a reduction of about 60 per cent from the rates in vogue before the state began interference with railroad charges.

On the question of profits to be reasonably allowed the court says: "The state cannot justify unreasonably low rates for domestic transportation, considered alone, upon the ground that the convenience of the public in its interstate business, over which, so far as rates are concerned, the state has no control. It is within the particular case of the state that the basis of all calculations of reasonableness of rates to be charged by a corporation maintaining a highway under legislative sanction must be the fair value of the property being used by the carrier in earning large profits on the convenience of the public. And in order to ascertain that value, the original cost of construction, the amount expended in permanent improvement, the amount and market value of its bonds and stock, the present cost compared with the original cost of construction, the probable earning capacity of the property under any rates prescribed by the state, and the sum required to meet operating expenses, are all matters for consideration and to be given such weight as may be just and right in the particular case."

This is a doctrine that will suit the railroaders very well, but it is not the ground that has been taken by the state supreme courts. Our own case, in the state of Minnesota might reasonably question how far the railroads might go in holding up rates to the state in order to bring about the most profitable extension elsewhere; also that the true method of determining the reasonable rate was to base it on the present cost of reproducing the property. Judge Cady discussed at considerable length the amount of value to be accredited to terminals and lands for terminals held by railroad companies. If railroad companies are to base their rates on their original cost it would

certainly seem to be his to require how much of that cost they did not pay, how much was given them by states, counties, cities and even individuals, to secure roads where they wanted them. Then, too, it would be fair to require how much of the alleged original cost went to construction companies, which paid back inflated dividends to the officials who were openly promoting the roads and secretly milking the original stockholders through construction companies. The truth about the original cost of railroads is hard to come at. The evidence is all in the hands of those interested in inflating the cost of the property in order that rates may remain high. The decision of the supreme court makes it very difficult for state courts to deal with the whole question, inasmuch as nearly all roads are interstate. If Minnesota, for example is loath to allow the Great Northern road freight rates to the Red river valley based upon the cost of maintaining and operating the whole mountain system, it will become necessary for a court having jurisdiction to extend to at least the system to say what those rates shall be.

MIRTHFUL MUSINGS.

Chicago Record: "I like to go to Tomkins." "Is he a patient dentist?" "No, but whenever you pull a tooth for me he makes frightful faces himself."

Puck: "Ah! my dear, of course you did not have your sewing circle today, when it was so stormy?" "No, yes, I had, dear, but I had it by telephone."

Harlem Life: "What's the reason your baggage isn't here? Wasn't it checked?" "That's just the trouble. It was checked by an attachment."

Chicago Post: "I was surprised to learn that she was a woman with a past." "Does she look as if she was born yesterday? I should say she had a past that is not a bit less than twenty-eight years."

Chicago Times-Herald: "Cuba is a pretty slyly subject to handle," remarks a New Orleans paper. Certainly; it is Castile's hope.

Detroit Journal: The next morning he was full of better thoughts. "No, yes, but worms?" he gloomily exclaimed.

His wife, who although she was deeply hurt by having him come home so late, missed the previous night, yet pitied him, heard him speak thus with much disquietude, and so that that night at once more pounded ice upon his head.

Detroit Free Press: Mrs. McBride—The Cubans say they did much rather have contributions of ammunition than bread. Mr. McBride—'ll send them some of your biscuits and they can use them for food or cannon balls.

Philadelphia North American: "I want war," said Bill facetiously, "because I am in hopes that in that way some of my creditors will be killed." "That you would rather see them killed outright than have them starve to death?"

Cincinnati Enquirer: The Cautious One—I wouldn't go to the Klondike. Already the place is getting so hot there that I think I'll go as soon as I can.

Washington Star: "Did you know," said the Spanish student, "that when the Chinese go into war they beat guns and send off fireworks?" "How foolish," mused the general. "When they get anything on their minds why don't they write it?"

Chicago Tribune: "Now, George, quit pulling my ear!" "It's my ear now, sweet! Going to pull it all I please!" "This is why the hard-favored passenger with the iron grip chin bears to be sitting in the seat behind a young man in a new black broadcloth suit and a young woman in a gray silk traveling dress, got up hastily and went forward into the smoking car."

It is reported that Kaiser Wilhelm has applied, through his ambassador, to the English government, "that when the Kaiser is being sung nightly in the London music halls, the lyric which offends his imperial majesty should be suppressed." "When they get anything on their minds why don't they write it?"

"Fitzsimmons met the Kaiser. And they warmly hugged and kissed. Old Fitz had his gloves on. Bill had a mink coat. The Kaiser he grew nasty; they had a blooming row. The Kaiser hit Fitzsimmons—'Where is the Kaiser now?'"

Brooklyn Life: "Sent back his voice again. He always seems to think they are located in his throat."

THE "WEARING OF THE GREEN."

Minna Irving in Leslie's Weekly. He laid his blackened pipe aside, A moisture dimmed his eyes And made his blue as soft a hue As April's misty sky. The morning frost was on his beard, The winds of March were keen, But all his heart was warmed to hear The "Wearing of the Green."

The burden of his years of toil Was lifted from his back; His furrowed cheek was smooth and young, His grizzled hair was black. The silver flags and snowy plumes— They passed him all unheeded; He walked again where first he sung The "Wearing of the Green."

The mossy rocks and rugged glens Sent back his voice again, And Mary, in her cabin door, Took up the sad refrain. She had a shamrock in her breast, The Kerchie's fold between, And redder lips have never thrilled The "Wearing of the Green."

Her Mary's old and feeble now, Her sooty locks are white, She dozes by the fire all