

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Less unsold and returned copies... 15,307. Net total sales... 730,093. Net daily average... 23,571.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 31st day of December, 1898. (Seal) N. P. EHLI, Notary Public.

Now for a legislative calm until the committee announcements next week.

We feel confident nevertheless that nothing like the payment of the sugar bounty can permanently estrange the new governor and the local popocratic organ.

Those anti-pass declarations will have a tendency to send a chill down the backs of state house employees who ride on passes and charge the state up with mileage.

Old Andrew Jackson will never know what he has missed by shuffling off the mortal coil so prematurely when he had copied after Methusalem he might have learned what a great man he was.

Governor Lee of South Dakota went Governor Holcomb of Nebraska one better in the length of his message to the legislature. The legislatures of the two states who had to listen to them might console one another.

The portion of Governor Poynter's address devoted to the exercise of the executive veto is generally interpreted as a declaration that no legislation which would be crossways on the populist platform can find its way into the statute books with the governor's consent.

Ex-confederate soldiers are showing far more sense than some of their fool friends. So far not a single organization of these veterans has publicly endorsed the proposal to pension them, while several have made protests against it as both bad policy and poor taste.

The 25,000-word message of the retiring governor and the inaugural address of the incoming official proved too large a meal for the legislature to digest in the usual time sittings and both houses adjourned until Monday.

By that time it is expected the members will be prepared to resume drawing the regular raters.

The trouble with the legislature is not that every member of it is not willing to keep the number of employees down to the lowest possible limit, but that each one insists that the pruning be done at the expense of some other member. But even with the greatest latitude there would not be sufficient to make good all ante-election promises.

As affairs in the Philippines are shaping themselves it begins to look more and more as though the United States would be compelled to engage in a war of conquest in those islands. Those who from the first opposed taking over these distant possessions are having the correctness of their position demonstrated more rapidly than anticipated.

The agricultural implement dealers have resolved and bound themselves not to patronize any wholesale dealer or manufacturer who sells directly to the consumer. If this resolution is adhered to the country dealers in farm implements, wagons and buggies can be in no danger of losing any trade by the proposed Greater America Exposition.

Official bonds are exacted to safeguard the public and not to harass the officer. At the same time the first object is the primary one and should always be subserved in view even if it does entail some trouble or expense upon public officials. The people of Nebraska have already had too much experience with official bonds that do not bind.

Those who insist that a large standing army is necessary in this country for the reason the volunteers cannot be depended upon should read the opinion of them expressed by Sir Garnet Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the English army. He speaks from a knowledge gained from reports of English experts sent over to observe the war operations. His praise of the volunteer is unstinted and unqualified and pronounces them a rock on which the great nation can rely for defenders whenever needed.

GOVERNOR POYNTER'S INAUGURAL.

The inaugural message of Governor Poynter commends itself to the people of Nebraska chiefly for its plain talk and terseness, although most of the suggestions and recommendations had been covered by his predecessor, with whom he seems to agree on nearly all subjects.

Like Governor Holcomb he expresses himself in favor of railroad regulation, but lacks the backbone to come out squarely in favor of the abolition of the bogus railroad commission, which was created originally in defiance of the express popular will against a constitutional amendment creating such a commission. On this proposition Governor Poynter is on record as against the law creating the commission and was therefore in position to reaffirm the views he had held in 1885.

The new governor is somewhat visionary in his scheme for enlarging the powers of the labor bureau. At best the labor commissioner, under our constitution, can be only a labor statistician, and the scope of the position is decidedly limited in the state of Nebraska, which is an agricultural rather than a manufacturing state. The proposition to give the labor commissioner the power to arbitrate all differences arising between trades unions and employers, to adjust strikes and lockouts and to determine finally disputes in the matter of time and wages, cannot be successfully carried into effect because the legislature cannot vest this extraordinary power in any commissioner who by law is simply a substitute for the governor. It is questionable whether such power if conferred upon the governor himself could be exercised by him under our constitution.

The recommendation that the legislature shall endeavor to right the wrong committed by previous legislatures in failing to do its sworn duty to reapportion the legislative representation comes altogether at the wrong time and from the wrong man. The only legislature that had any right to make this reapportionment was the legislature of 1891, in which the fusionists held a majority and in which Governor Poynter served as a member. That legislature was in possession of the official census returns of 1890 and no valid excuse has ever been presented why it defied the constitutional mandate, knowing that no subsequent legislature could lawfully make the apportionment until another census should have been taken. The fusion legislature of 1897 might possibly have rectified the wrong by taking the school census of 1895 as a basis for reapportionment, but the legislature of 1898 has no semblance of authority under the constitution.

As to the railroad pass the governor is eminently in accord with public sentiment in demanding its abolition.

His conclusions regarding the sugar bounty are illogical. While disclaiming any disposition to repudiate any just obligation of the state, and recognizing the validity of the compact between the state and the sugar growers and manufacturers, he wants the legislature to make provision for paying bounty claims held by farmers and to reject the bounty claims held by the manufacturers. The legislature certainly cannot consistently discriminate in this way. It cannot make flesh of one and fish of another. If the claims are just and legal they should be paid, if not they should be turned down.

Two years ago Governor Holcomb in his message to the last legislature condemned the plebiscite ballot only to allow it to become a law without a veto. This year he studiously abstained from making any reference to this device for destroying the independence of the voter, which at the same time puts a premium on ignorance and illiteracy. On this vital subject Governor Poynter, who has prided himself on his independence in politics, was expected to speak out his honest convictions, but in this his silence is disappointing.

THE PROPOSED RETALIATION.

The agricultural bill, as it passed the house and as it will probably pass the senate and become a law, contains a provision that will place a club in the hands of the secretary of agriculture which if vigorously used can hardly fail to bring the countries that discriminate against American products to their commercial senses. According to Washington advices this proposed policy of retaliation has already had a good effect and there is talk of early negotiations between the French and German governments and this government looking to reciprocity treaties. It is stated that the German government especially appears to have awakened to the fact that the United States, having complied with every requirement necessary to assure the purity of its meat products, is aroused at the threat of further restrictive legislation and seriously proposes to retaliate in turn, if forced so to do.

The provision in the agricultural bill gives the secretary of agriculture the power to pay France and Germany in their own coin for the unjust burdens they have so long put on American importations, especially our meat products. Under German wines and German painted toys can be subjected to the most vigorous examination for poisonous substances, while German cheese and sausage, as well as all those German manufactures that come under the head of delicacies, can be compelled to pass the ordeal of a rigid chemical analysis before being admitted to sale in the United States. Similarly French brandies, champagnes, still wines, canned goods, sweetmeats and many other products may not be allowed to pass the custom houses unless they have passed successfully the inspection of officials who will be as exacting as the French and German inspectors of American meat, dairy products and fruits.

Such legislation is clearly justified and the sooner it is enacted the better. The United States has patiently borne discrimination against American products and has made every effort, without avail, to have it removed. Nothing remains but to strike back if the injustice is continued, as it certainly will be if the proposed legislation should not be adopted. However reluctant this coun-

try may be to engage in a commercial war with any other nation, we cannot go on indefinitely tolerating a policy of hostility to our commercial interests for which there is no justification. We do not complain of German or French tariffs that operate equally against the products of all countries. What we object to, and justly so, is discrimination and the time has come to resent this in the most effective way at our command. Self-respect as well as self-protection requires this.

THE PHILIPPINE PROBLEM.

The American people must soon realize, if they have not already done so, that a very grave problem confronts this government in the Philippines. The latest advices from that remote territory are of the most disquieting nature. They indicate a determined purpose on the part of the natives who are supporting the government to resist to the last extremity American occupation. Assuming the correctness of the reported interview with the head of the Filipino junta at Hong Kong it shows that the element in the Philippines represented by the junta is not less disposed now than before the cession of the islands by Spain to yield its demand for independence and self-government. They are prepared to enter into an alliance with the United States. They say that they earnestly desire to establish amicable relations with this government. They do not want a rupture and bloodshed, but they will accept this as the alternative to surrendering the right to independence which they strongly and sincerely believe is theirs by virtue of their past struggles and the support they gave this government.

The situation at Iloilo, where Aginaldo is said to have gone to assume command, is believed to be serious. It is possible that there will be inaugurated there what will become a long and desolating conflict. The new cabinet of the so-called national government is said to be pledged to resist American occupation. The Filipinos refuse to release Spanish prisoners, which our government in the treaty of peace is pledged to undertake to release, and propose to negotiate with Spain in regard to these prisoners, thereby ignoring the United States. These and other circumstances clearly and distinctly show that the Filipinos are firmly determined not to peacefully accept a new sovereignty, that confident of their own capacity for self-government and believing they have won the right to it, they intend to endeavor at every hazard to achieve their aspiration. They appeal to the American people to "uphold the rights of mankind," meaning the right of self-government. What shall be our answer? Shall we subjugate these people, if that be possible, by force of arms, compelling them at the cannon's mouth to submit to a rule they do not desire, or shall we avoid conflict and bloodshed by offering them the same opportunity we give the people of Cuba? The problem is of momentous interest.

Let us not make the mistake of underestimating the intelligence, the patriotism or the earnestness of purpose of the Filipinos. It will be well to receive with some allowance the opinions regarding these people of military men, to most of whom war would not be unwelcome. There is very good evidence that men of more than ordinary intelligence are directing the policy of the Filipinos, while there is no reason to doubt their patriotism or their sincerity. There have been reports of serious disagreements and dissensions among them, but there is no evidence of anything of the kind. On the contrary there is every indication that they are a unit in their opposition to American occupation and American rule. What response they will make to the proclamation of General Otis is yet to be learned, but there is no reason to expect that it will be favorable. Events of great import in the Philippines are imminent.

The first official acts of Governor Poynter have been to reduce the bond of the state treasurer from \$2,000,000 to \$1,500,000 and to approve a bond furnished by a guaranty surety company. These acts are not only of questionable propriety, but also of questionable legality. The constitution requires the treasurer's bond to be in his hands at any one time, and with large amounts of school funds invested in warrants that must be paid as soon as the taxes they represent are covered into the treasury, the chances are good that the treasurer will have more than \$750,000 in his hands before two years are ended. In the second place there is no authority of law for accepting a guaranty bond from the state treasurer. On the contrary, a bill designed to give such authority failed in the last legislature and in the absence of such an enactment it is doubtful if the state could recover on the bond. While the people of Nebraska would perhaps prefer to have the treasurer secured by a guaranty company rather than by personal sureties, they want a bond that will hold water in the courts should it become necessary to look to the bondsman to make good any shortage in the treasurer's accounts.

Omaha is gradually and steadily gaining on other western port packing centers. In the two months ending January 1 the total number of hogs disposed of by western packers is computed at 5,710,000, as against 4,540,000 during the same period a year ago, which shows an increase of 1,170,000, or about 25 per cent. Of this increase Chicago alone exceeds Omaha among the packing cities. But while Chicago gains 25

per cent Omaha's gain is 48 per cent. Kansas City increased its output by 90,000 hogs and Omaha gains 190,000. For years Kansas City has slaughtered and packed twice as many hogs as Omaha, but the ratio is now reduced so that in the past two months the comparative figures show 700,000 for Kansas City to 480,000 for Omaha. At the rate of increase of the last six months Omaha would overtake Kansas City by the year 1900.

With each succeeding week the condition of the iron and steel industry grows more promising. At the present rate the maximum capacity of present existing works will soon be reached. Not only are those now engaged in the business prospering and reaching out all over the world for trade, but it is announced on good authority that a company with a capital running way up in the millions has been formed to start work at once on one of the largest and most complete plants in the world, to be erected at Newport News, Va. With unlimited raw material within our own borders and modern facilities, rapidly increasing in capacity, for its manufacture there is no longer any question as to the ultimate and complete supremacy of the United States in this most important of the world's industries.

Ice dealers state that the price of this household necessity next summer will be governed by the cost of putting it up this winter. This would be good news to the consumer if true. Should the dealers attempt to prove that the prices charged in recent years, especially to small consumers, had any legitimate relation to the cost of putting up and delivering the product it would occupy so much of their time that a material increase in office force would be necessary. Omaha, the last few seasons, has paid as much for ice as is charged in cities 500 miles further south, where every pound has to be shipped in or manufactured artificially.

Deeds Better Than Words.

General Prosperity is not one of those who are engaged in making explanations. Couldn't Stand Prosperity. Philadelphia Ledger.

The demise of the free silver issue proves that it was never a genuine American institution; it couldn't stand prosperity. No Entangling Alliances. Buffalo Express.

The new-born friendship between England and the United States has the natural effect of developing a hostility to both countries in the Russian press. The true policy for this country is to keep clear of alliances and maintain friendship with all nations. Health of Minia Troops. Philadelphia Ledger.

From December 24 to January 2, a period of ten days, only five deaths, one of them by accident, are reported among the thousands of troops at Manila. This speaks exceedingly well for the care taken of the health of the men and suggests that the army in that section is in the hands of men who understand their business and do not fail to attend to it. Reciprocity of Good Will. New York Tribune.

The Hamburg Chamber of Commerce will ask the United States government to protect German plantation property in Porto Rico and it will be done in a perfectly effectual manner. It would have been done without the asking, which nevertheless will receive the politest response. Such courtesy and good intention as Germany always exhibits toward us deserve a return in kind, which will not at any time be wanting. Things Unthought a Year Ago. Buffalo Express.

Would any one have predicted last April when the United States was going to war to drive the Spanish out of Cuba, that by January it would be going to war with Spain's enemies for the possession of the town of Iloilo on the island of Panay? It is not even absurd that a war for humanity in the West Indies should involve us in a war for territory at the other end of the world? Who could have dreamed a year ago that the United States ever would care what authority prevailed in Iloilo? Railroad Development. Kansas City Star.

Few people realize that it is but seventy years since the world was not so civilized and that at present there are 400,000 miles of constructed railway. No other fact shows how fast and how far the world has moved within the period of a single human life. The progress of railroads has been the most advanced of man in mechanical skill, in invention, in knowledge of the forces of nature and in ability to command the resources of the earth. The great and controlling nations of the earth are the nations with the best systems of railway. THE POLL OF 1898. An Official Record of the Returns of the Ninety-ninth Session. Philadelphia Press.

Table with 5 columns: State, Rep., Dem., Pop., Pro. Rows include Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

SULZER FOR LEADER.

A Pertinent Panegyric on the Jacksonian Spouter. Washington Post.

There is a certain satisfaction in the thought of Hon. William Sulzer as the democratic leader for the next house of representatives. We do not know why it is, but Sulzer has always exercised a powerful and peculiar influence over our imagination. He is so young, so smart, so fresh, so pervading, so redundant, he exhibits such enthusiasm and brandishes so fine a head of hair; it has always seemed to us that Sulzer had a future far different from that of other men.

Of course, we understand that the democratic leadership is already filled to the very point of bursting by the Hon. Jobalby of Texas and we are free to say that anything more radiant than the Hon. Jobalby himself, if ever made our eyes blink with intolerable rapture. But Sulzer has points which Jobalby cannot boast. Sulzer stands for the militant democracy. He belongs for war, for conquest, for expansion. The gates of Janus open at his knock. Billings blinks and snarls at the breeze to the wind when Sulzer speaks. And all the ferocious rage and strain as he goes past with carnage in his eye. We doubt whether the late glorious war would ever have been precipitated but for Sulzer's maddening oratory. It seems to us that when he stood up in the house, a year or so ago and baring his tumultuous bosom to the Spanish bullets' hail, defied the tyrant cohorts up and down, he did more to fire the Yankee flag than any other man in the house for thirty years. We ransacked history in vain for any parallel to that exalting spectacle. Only Casablanca seemed in it with him, and even he but slightly. Horatius at the bridge impressed us as a mere poseur.

Let no man tell himself that Sulzer is an aspirant to be disposed of with a word. Sulzer may not wear the constitution as a chest-protector, nor has he done his burning temples on in the lonely watches of the night; but he is a leader in every fiber of his composition and the mantle of Henry Clay sits snugly on his collar-bones. POLITICAL DRIFT. Senator Santa Claus Stewart is back in New Jersey, diligently looking after his senatorial duties.

New Jersey is one of the favored and fortunate states of the union. It has a surplus in its treasury. Congressman Cummings declares in a press letter that congressmen who do the least talking are the most successful. The members of the lower house and have the least trouble in securing re-election.

The other day when an amendment was proposed in the Philadelphia common council to limit the cost of lighting electric lamps to \$100 a year each it was voted down by 15 to 75. The amendment would have saved the city \$150,000 a year. Mayor A. J. Andrew, the newly appointed adjutant general of the New York state militia, was the unwavering ally of Theodore Roosevelt when both members of the New York police commission. He is a democrat, but not a Tammany member of the police commission.

Samanuel H. Ashbridge, representative of the Governor of Philadelphia, was born in the Quaker city of Quaker parents, in 1849. He is one of the best known and most popular republicans in the city. His great fail is flag raising, and his enthusiasm in that line brought him the affectionate appellation of "Sam Spangled Sam." O. H. P. Belmont, the New York millionaire, who has started a weekly paper, the Verdict, the announced purpose of which is to fight trusts and monopolies, has written for the New York World a long article setting forth his aims and ideas. He has also opposed to expansion and has already instituted a vigorous fight against the candidacy of Chauncey M. Depew for the senate.

This quotation from the New York Tribune is going the rounds: "The colonization is one of the greatest of all delusions. The prosperity, strength, respectability and virtue of a state lie in the concentration and not in the diffusion of its forces. Home life is the mother of virtues and not the unlicensed vagabondage of mere colonization in quest of adventure." These are genuine Trinitisms, but they were written by Horace Bushnell.

The number of American municipalities now issuing bonds for the payment of city expenses or for city improvements is smaller than it has been for a number of years, notwithstanding the improvement in the investment market and the enlarged demand for desirable bonds of all kinds. The present habit of Newark, N. J., is nearly twice as large as the debt of Cleveland, O. Providence, with a population of 150,000, has a municipal debt of \$13,000,000, while Washington, the national capital, owes \$16,000,000 only. The present population of Washington is about 225,000.

The New York court of appeals has just affirmed a verdict for \$1,500 in a libel suit of eight years' standing. In 1892 the Morning Advertiser published a telegram from London, saying that Edward R. Van Ingen was at the head of a movement to raise an enormous corruption fund among English business men, to be used in electing Grover Cleveland president, and that the money thus raised was not for legitimate campaign expenses, but to "debauch the ballot." When an Inogen sued the publisher to allow the publisher to plead that the charge was so ridiculous on its face that none of the friends of the plaintiff would believe it to be true.

In his closing annual message to the legislature of Pennsylvania, Governor Hastings administered a terrific roast to the state capital commission: "I now aver," says the governor, "that four members of the commission have utterly failed to carry out their sworn promise to the court and that they have acted in disregard of the trust reposed in them." The structure which they are assembling today is unworthy of your honorable bodies and is a disgrace to the commonwealth. In its present condition it is hardly fit for human habitation, much less the official abode of the representatives of the great commonwealth. The act requires that the building 'shall be built in that phase of the renaissance style of architecture known as the colonial.' This structure bears no more resemblance to colonial architecture than does the Egyptian Sphinx. There are scores of farmers' barns in Pennsylvania more attractive in appearance than this building. It is made of common brick embedded in cheap mortar, looks like a hastily erected factory building and is repulsive to the eye."

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

All other plans having failed Emperor Francis Joseph has fallen back on autocratic rule to govern his irreconcilable dominions. The first of this month saw the end of the legal life of the Ausgleich, or bond by which the partitioning of the empire between the government were divided between Hungary and Austria. The failure of the Ausgleich, the failure of the Ausgleich, forced the emperor to take matters into his own hands and now he is ruling the two countries by edict. He has extended the workings of the Ausgleich to the end of the present year and matters will remain in status quo. The present arrangement will give the war-factions of Vienna and Budapest an opportunity to come to some sort of a satisfactory understanding. But despite this political move of the emperor there is much doubt whether the future of constitutional and parliamentary government in Austria and Hungary is any brighter. The irreconcilable factions have had time, and ample time, to come to some sort of an agreement, but racial, religious and social animosities are too deeply implanted in their breasts for any reasonable co-operation to ensue. Clericals in Austria and Hungary despise the Magyar, the Czechs and Slavs are against all other nations, the socialists and democrats will never be induced to act with the aristocrats, and so through the whole lot there is nothing but discord in prospect. The emperor has done wisely to return to autocracy for a solution of his country's troubles and his new system of government will answer admirably as a makeshift until he dies. After that the rotten ship of state may embark upon the worst storm that has ever threatened it.

President Krueger has forbidden the proposed celebration of the defeat of the Jamestown by the Afrikaners in the Transvaal. This is by no means the serious condition of affairs that exists in the Dutch republic. The recent murder of the Englishman named Edgar by a Boer policeman is but one of the many evidences of the restless state of feeling there. The fact is that the Dutch will not tolerate the presence of an Englishman in the Transvaal if it can possibly be helped. The British, who have large holdings in that country and are deeply interested in both mining and agricultural pursuits, are continually following up their demand for political recognition and a share in deciding the taxes and expenditures of the government. This demand the Dutch have refused. The defeat of the Jamestown raid has given them the upper hand for the time being and they are taking advantage of it to the disadvantage of the foreign element. How long this condition of affairs will continue will depend entirely upon the provocation which will give the British government the opportunity to act.

It is plain from the latest reports from Crete, that one of the most pressing duties of Prince George's new government will be that of financial administration. The long standing financial chaos was the immediate cause of the outbreak in 1896 and of the troubles which followed. Owing to the series of deficits in the annual budgets, the salaries of public officials remained over a year in arrears, the government was unable to provide financial relief it is expected that there will soon be a recurrence of the disorders. The power for the time being is in the hands of the British, and they are following up their demand for political recognition and a share in deciding the taxes and expenditures of the government. This demand the Dutch have refused. The defeat of the Jamestown raid has given them the upper hand for the time being and they are taking advantage of it to the disadvantage of the foreign element. How long this condition of affairs will continue will depend entirely upon the provocation which will give the British government the opportunity to act.

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ON SAN JUAN HILL.

Robert Burns Wilson in New York Sun. All is now still on San Juan Hill, And over El Caney's ground Soft shadows float, and the wood doves' note Is the only living sound. The palm trees stand in a dreamlike land, And the hot winds faint and die On the tasselled mats of the guinea grass And the coffee bushes dry. The turtled dove of the patient earth And the mystery of the trees Are over the same, and the war's red flame Disturbs not the dream of these. The trenches, ablaze, through the dreadful day Die bleached in the tropic sun. And the smell of death with the stifling Of breath. Or the battle is passed and done, But memory stands with outstretched hands Alone on that alien shore; Where the graves are made, her feet are stayed. Stayed—never to wonder more. Forever stands with outstretched hands. Her white bow bound with seaweed. And over the walls of the hills she calls, And over the sea she wails. Her cry is the cry of the bonded slave. And the cry of the wretched class. And the soulless depths where Nature Is dead. Not a breeze but brings on its rushing wings Her message again and again: "They carried the height—in as brave a fight As was ever fought by men."

thus, in effect, paralleling the Suez canal. The line would start from Tripoli, on the Mediterranean, and end at Kowloon, on the Gulf. The sultan is said to favor the scheme, which is got up by a Russian count in connection with English, French, Russian and Belgian elements. The rich valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris need to be opened up by rapid transit. Persia and Turkey would profit by better communications. An east and west passenger traffic would be developed and mails and valuable freights would seek a route so much speedier than the Suez canal. The journey from sea to sea would be made in twenty-four hours, and five days would be saved in going from Brindisi to Bombay.

TART TRIPLES.

Detroit Journal: "When the meek shall inherit the earth that will be the millennium for the lawyers!" Indianapolis Journal: "Are you an imperialist?" asked the person who likes to know. "Young man," said the statesman, "I never wore one in all my life!" Chicago News: The Count-I had loved your daughter from so first time we met. Her father—Who had told you that I was rich?

Somerville Journal: HicKs—What was it, anyway, that drove Browne to drink? Wicks—I never observed that Browne had to be driven. Chicago Tribune: "With or without?" asked the barber, as the customer took his seat in the chair. "Without," replied the customer. "Without?" the barber shaved him without any conversation.

Baltimore Herald: "Is he near sighted?" "Well, I should say so. He walked into a tailor's shop yesterday where he had been owing money for three years." New York Weekly: Inquiring Lady—Do you always drink beer when you are thirsty? "Have you taken any, ma'am? I always drink water when I am thirsty, shut the same as you do." "The rest of the dime."

Washington Star: "No," she said, "I'm not going to Europe. The ocean seems so restless and dangerous now." "Well," answered the young man, "when you think how full the ocean is of Spanish war ships, you can't blame it for being uneasy."

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DOWN THEY GO.

This means prices for overcoats and heavy weight suits. The height of the season is past but there is a lot of winter weather ahead of us. And now that our inventory has been taken we must set about selling whatever of our winter stock is still on hand. We expect to do that quickly by the reduction in our prices to a figure that represents hardly more than the cost of manufacture. We are not going to give away clothing but we are going to sell it for as little as will suffice to cover us. We want the room for spring goods presently.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER. ABSOLUTELY PURE. Makes the food more delicious and wholesome. BROWNING KING & CO. 100 N. 10th St. and Broadway St.