

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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GEO. B. TZSCHUCK, Notary Public. Subscribed and sworn before me this 31st day of July, 1899.

Parties Leaving for the Summer.

Parties leaving the city for the summer may have The Bee sent to them regularly by notifying The Bee business office, in person or by mail. The address will be changed as often as desired.

Secretary Alger presents another case in which popularity is stimulated by public sympathy.

Governor Shaw of Iowa has been re-nominated by acclamation. May as well make his re-election unanimous.

The steady but sure rapprochement between government receipts and expenditures is another thorn in the side of the calamity wallers.

The Yankton extension to Norfolk is announced for the 15th of this month. In the meantime the twenty-five-mile gap between Hartington and Yankton remains.

A Kansas paper refers to a man who died without the aid of a doctor. This is hardly fair. The doctor is certainly entitled to a show before the undertaker comes in.

The Mazet investigating committee is uncovering more of Tammany's rottenness in New York. The health officials should enjoin further procedure until cold weather.

American tourists are now leaving millions of money in Europe. But just watch the yellow metal come back when the western corn and wheat crop gets down to work.

William Waldorf Astor has become a subject of Queen Victoria, but when Queen Victoria's assessor calls for his income tax the great Anglomaniac will probably claim to be a resident of Jersey City.

The harmony that prevailed among the Maryland democrats in their state convention may be taken as proof positive that Gorman is completely on top and that opposition to him within the party has practically ceased.

The Department of Agriculture announces the success of efforts to raise tea in South Carolina. The mountaineers have successfully produced cold tea for many years in spite of discouragements from official sources.

That democratic relief fund is still open for contributions, but possible subscribers are warned that not even a court order will avail to get back the money when it once reaches the pockets of the popocratic beneficiaries.

It is really unkind in Emperor William to beat Uncle Edward at his own game of yacht racing, but Nephew William is a decidedly enterprising young man and has done a good many things which have surprised his elders.

It required a decision of the district court to establish the fact that a Kansas City man was not a jackass. As the damages were only placed at \$1 the resemblance must have been almost close enough to warrant the statement.

The Union Pacific land department officials are working the gold discovery racket in a way that must help the sales of land in western Kansas. All things come to him who waits. Perhaps a little later we may read that silver dollars grow on western Kansas saplings.

Of the appointments made by Governor Poynter two are credited with being republicans. One of these two, W. C. Caven, was supposed to be a democrat when appointed and still claims to belong to that party. When some question was raised as to his loyalty to fusion the string attached to the appointment was pulled and the commission came back with it. The governor's record for non-partisanship is neither a long nor a glorious one.

PLEA FOR INDEPENDENCE.

A distinguished Cuban, Dr. Antonio Perez, has presented an argument for the independence of his country and against annexation which cannot fail to make an impression favorable to his contention. Dr. Perez says the Cubans who have been opposing for nearly half a century the formidable power of Spain, and successfully resisting all kinds of bribes and promises, cannot so easily be deprived of the right to direct their own destiny as were the people of Hawaii.

Dr. Perez says that the present state of affairs in the island is looked upon as an interregnum pending the formation of a Cuban republic and that in spite of assertions to the contrary, the native Cubans are almost unanimously in favor of a republic; their aim is definite and the movement is constantly growing in force and in numbers. "Consequently," he declares, "the independence of Cuba is a necessity and the only solution of the Cuban problem."

THE MARYLAND DEMOCRATS.

The democrats of Maryland held their convention yesterday and nominated for governor a gold standard man. Colonel John W. Smith, the candidate, is a wealthy banker and it is said will personally bear nearly the entire expenses of the state campaign, the party being short of funds, due to the fact that the republicans have been in complete control for nearly four years of all the state as well as the federal offices. There was a considerable free silver element among the democrats of Maryland three years ago, but it has become very much reduced and it is probable that most of the then supporters of silver will vote the ticket nominated yesterday, in which event it will have a good chance of election. The candidate for governor is said to be a very popular man and exceedingly generous as a campaign contributor.

The platform says nothing about the currency, but it is quite safe to say that the delegation from Maryland to the democratic national convention next year will not favor free silver. A feature of the fight in Maryland this year is the election of a number of state senators who will hold over until 1902, when a successor to United States Senator Wellington is to be elected. On the republican side Senator Wellington will exert every effort to have friends of his elected to the state senate, while on the democratic side none except tried and true Gorman men need apply. Wellington is not as popular with his party as when he was elected to the senate and it will be no surprise if he is beaten in this year's fight for state senators.

The result of the Maryland election will be of more than local interest, since in the event of democratic success Senator Gorman might become prominent as a presidential possibility.

PARAMOUNT POWER OF THE PACIFIC.

The former American minister to Siam, Mr. John Barrett, has an article in the current number of the North American Review discussing the responsibilities and interests of the United States as the paramount power of the Pacific. Mr. Barrett considers his subject almost wholly in its material or commercial aspect and he treats it with reference chiefly to our interests in China. He points out that there is danger of our interests in that empire being neglected by reason of the attention that is being given to the Philippine question and says that our commercial opportunities in China are far greater than they ever will be in the Philippines, under the most favorable conditions.

The ex-minister to Siam thinks there is a grave peril confronting our interests in the Middle Kingdom and he urges that "while we should do everything in our power to prevent the disintegration of China, at the same time, in realization of the fact that we cannot go to war in support of such a policy, if we see that the break-up is inevitable we must leave no stone unturned to preserve our old treaty rights in a new form with the powers in control." He thinks if this is accomplished our trade and commerce in the country that once was China will be greater than ever otherwise possible, but he doubts if such a fortunate result would ever attend our efforts.

Mr. Barrett urges that the country should stand unanimously for a firm policy in respect to the far east and particularly China, because that quarter of the world offers a market for the products of all sections of the United States. He presents a strong statement of the trade possibilities in the far east and sees no reason why American exports, which now approximate \$40,000,000 a year, should not in the near future expand to \$150,000,000.

In regard to our policy in China, Mr. Barrett says we should stand firmly and persistently for the integrity of the Chinese empire, we should insist on the "open door" and absolute freedom of trade in accordance with the stipulations of the old Tientsin treaties, should exert our influence against the delimitation of alleged "spheres of influence," or actual "areas of operation," and as far as possible should work in harmony and on

the same lines with other powers having similar commercial interests, to protect them from further limitation.

Unquestionably the markets of the far east offer great opportunities for American commerce and our government should by all means consistent with the established policy of the nation protect and promote our interests there, but there appears to be nothing in the existing situation to justify the apprehension of injury to our interests which Mr. Barrett and some others entertain. A time may come when there will be good reason for such a fear and if it should the United States will be prepared to assert itself as the circumstances and conditions shall require. Meanwhile its safe policy will be to maintain the attitude which the present administration has declared in regard to Chinese affairs, to wit, that of "disinterested neutrality." A strict adherence to that policy will, we have no doubt, best conserve our rights and interests in China and not in the least interfere with our position as "the paramount power of the Pacific."

HOW TO ACQUIRE THE WATER WORKS.

Three different propositions looking to the purchase of the water works by the city of Omaha have been presented to the city council for consideration. While it is premature for that body to take action under the existing contract with the water works company, an intelligent discussion of the problem with which the city will have to deal in the not distant future may not be out of place. The first proposition, introduced by Councilman Burmester, which was adopted by the council, directed the city attorney to report the date of expiration of the contract and franchise of the water company and the proper steps to be taken by the city to acquire ownership of the system. The second resolution, introduced by Mr. Stult, directed the city attorney to prepare an ordinance looking to the purchase of the water works in conformity with the twenty-year clause of the contract between the city and the water company. The third resolution, introduced by Councilman Labeck, instructed the city attorney to draft an ordinance submitting to the voters a proposition to authorize the city to issue \$2,500,000 of water works bonds, the proceeds to be applied to the purchase of the water works or construction of a new system.

In order that we may have a clear understanding of the rights of the city to buy the works under its contract we must refer to the purchase clause of the charter, which reads as follows: "The city of Omaha shall have the right at any time after the expiration of twenty years to purchase the said water works at an appraised valuation, which shall be ascertained by the estimate of three engineers, one to be selected by the city council, one by the water works company and these two to select the third, provided that nothing shall be paid for the unexpired franchise of said company. The knotty question is, When will the twenty years expire? The original contract was entered into July 20, 1880, and by this contract the city bound itself to pay hydrant rental for fire protection for a period of twenty-five years from the date of completion of the water works. In other words, while the city contracted for fire hydrants for a period of twenty-five years from the date of completion, it reserved to itself the right to buy in the works at any time after the expiration of twenty years at a price fixed by three appraisers without allowing the company anything for the unexpired franchise.

The question is, When do the twenty years expire—is it from the date of contract or date of completion? Taken in connection with the proviso concerning the hydrant rental the term would imply twenty years from the date when the works were completed for public use. Here also we will encounter a controversy. The original contract required the completion of the works by July 20, 1881. That limit was extended by ordinance to November 15, 1881. That would make the date of expiration November 15, 1901. But there is another snag in the record. The official acceptance of the works by the city of Omaha was proclaimed by ordinance September 4, 1883, thus deferring the twenty-year purchase privilege to September 4, 1903.

If the contention of the city attorney is correct, that the city has a right to take the works at any time by condemnation process by exercising the right of eminent domain, the question is, How much will the city be compelled to pay for the unexpired franchise? If it runs into the millions as claimed by the company the city can better afford to wait until after the twenty-year purchase period expires, which at the very furthest would be a fraction over four years. If the expiration period terminates in July, 1901, then it is less than two years.

The proposed issue of \$2,500,000 in bonds would be entirely inadequate even if the condemnation process did not take into consideration the value of the unexpired franchise. As a matter of fact, there is nothing for the city council to do at this time unless it decides to enter the federal courts with a test case as to the city's right to take forcible possession of the works. The proposed construction of a rival plant is impracticable, as that would compel the city to pay fire hydrant rental to the end of twenty-five years from date of completion—or not less than \$800,000.

Attorney General Smyth imagines himself the victim of political persecution every time The Bee comments upon his failure to live up to the professions and pledges of the party that nominated him. The excuse he offers for his inaction in the enforcement of the Nebraska anti-trust law is almost too flimsy to merit notice. He wants the people to understand that he would have broken up the lawless insurance combine if the United States circuit court had not interfered with him by temporary injunction proceedings. The law prohibiting insurance combines went into effect July 1, 1897, and the United States court did not issue its restraining order until January, 1898. What was in the way

of the attorney general during the six months before the injunction was issued, and what about all the other trusts operating in Nebraska that have not invoked the protection of the federal courts?

Just about the time William J. Stone of the national democratic committee declared against fusion Lucien Stebbins of Nebraska issued a call for a straight up-and-up middle-of-the-road convention at Omaha. Up in South Dakota there are like evidences that the democrats and populists are tired of one another's company. Fusion is a mighty nice thing for the high man in the winning game, but there is little in it for those in the fog end of the procession.

The next most important thing in the eyes of a popocrat to securing an office is to make connection with the salary. The insurance commissioner and deputies have landed the office, but Auditor Cornell remains a slight impediment in the way of assimilating the salaries. It is really sad to see a popocrat gain possession of a fief only to find it empty.

The men of the Twentieth Kansas need not imagine their troubles are ended when they leave the Philippines. The women of Kansas have formed clubs whose members are pledged to marry none but members of the regiment. Unless the volunteers surrender on their return the crop of old maids threatens to be larger than that of sunflowers and not half so gorgeous.

The report that South and Central American states are forming an alliance to curb the ambitious designs of the United States is of course a pure fabrication, but even were it true they would be wasting time and energies. The United States has its hands full enough now assimilating Spanish speaking people.

"Trouble all confined to island of Luzon; southern islands quiet and people satisfied with American rule." "Rebels in island of Cebu attacked by infantry, aided by cruiser Charleston, and driven from entrenchments." General Otis might censor his own official dispatches and make an effort to reduce them to harmony.

The fight to oust the superintendent of the state fish hatcheries has finally proved successful, but instead of capturing the place for a simon pure populist it has been given over to an Omaha ward politician stamped with the brand of the Dallman-Herdman machine. How do the populists like it?

It is reassuring to know that Consul Osborne at Samoa still wears the same sized hat as he did when he resided at our neighboring town of Blair. This means that his head has been neither enlarged nor contracted and that his hair is worn all the time at the same length.

The extraordinary interest evoked by the Iowa republican state convention is simply a pointer to the extraordinary republican majority which Iowa will show this fall when the polls are closed and the returns counted.

County, school district and municipal bonds are being voted in various localities throughout the state and the few sales already effected attest anew the fact that Nebraska securities are among the best in the world.

It is in Sight Now. Minneapolis Times. Kansas and Nebraska are going to have a record-breaking crop.

Hits Democracy in a Vital Spot. Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. The superintendent of the Carnegie works says he could put 1,000 men to work if he had them. A condition of affairs like that hurts democracy in a vital spot.

People Will Pay for It. The coal-road magnates estimate that the advance of 25 cents a ton in the price of coal ordered for August 1 will add \$10,000,000 to their profits this year. And the people who have gone to hell will have to pay every dollar of it.

Experience Makes Trained Soldiers. Chicago Post. Only when the soldier becomes a machine is he efficient. The Nebraska and Utah volunteers who heard, apparently without emotion, the welcoming cheers of thousands had been tried by fire. It was no picnic that made these men veterans in less than two years.

Approved by the Country. Philadelphia Press. The disposition shown by President McKinley to stand by Pension Commissioner Evans is most commendable and will have the approval of the sober sentiment of the country. The opposition to Commissioner Evans has been stirred up and is kept alive by unscrupulous pension attorneys and as it becomes better understood it becomes weaker.

Activity in Cotton Manufacturing. Springfield Republican. We hear nothing these days about the declining cotton manufacturing industry of New England. The mills everywhere appear to be actively employed, prices are firm, the export demand is good, the home market is strong and the business is generally profitable. Mills which had suspended dividends are resuming a distribution of profits and many others are increasing dividends.

Our Growing Foreign Trade. New York Sun. The foreign trade of the United States for the last fiscal year ending with June, was the most remarkable in our history. The total of our exports exceeded \$1,200,000,000. It was less than the aggregate for the fiscal year of 1898 by about \$5,000,000, owing to a decrease in the value of our agricultural exportations, but that deficiency was nearly made up by an increase of exports of manufactures from \$290,697,354 in 1898 to \$328,667,794 in 1899.

Commendable Move. Minneapolis Tribune. A letter from one of the teachers in the Omaha schools informs us that the Board of Education of that city, by an unanimous vote, has passed a resolution providing that teachers and principals having served successfully for five successive years in the city schools shall be placed upon a permanent list, from which they shall only be removed for cause, and upon due hearing. This places the Omaha schools upon a progressive basis, as the teachers out of the hands of the politicians and rewards merit.

EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL.

Statistics Show Increase of Twenty-Three Million Dollars. Indianapolis Journal. Of the remarkable growth in United States exportation of manufactures during the fiscal year just ended that of the manufactures of iron and steel is the most striking. The total increase in exports of manufactures during the year, as shown by the figures of the Treasury Bureau of Statistics, is in round numbers \$48,000,000, and of this increase \$23,000,000 is in manufactures of iron and steel. The total exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof in the fiscal year 1899 were \$92,715,951, against \$70,696,855 in 1898, \$57,497,872 in 1897, \$41,460,877 in 1896, \$32,000,989 in 1895 and \$29,220,294 in 1894. It will thus be seen that the exports of manufactures of iron and steel in 1899 were more than double those of 1894 and more than three times as much as those of 1894. On the other hand, the imports of manufactures of iron and steel continue to fall, having been during the year but \$12,098,235, against \$25,288,103 in 1896 and \$53,544,372 in 1891. Thus, while the exports of iron and steel have been steadily growing the imports have fallen, so that they are now less than one-half what they were in 1896 and about one-fifth what they were in 1891.

All the classes of manufactures of iron and steel have shared in the growth of popularity abroad, but this is especially marked in the higher grades of manufactures, such as steel rails, railway engines, boilers and machinery of all sorts and especially in the use of manufactures of iron. The number of railway engines exported during the year was 517, against 468 in 1898, 338 in 1897, 261 in 1896, 252 in 1895 and 142 in 1894, while the value in U. S. currency of locomotives in 1899 was \$4,728,748, against \$3,825,184 in 1898.

Of the 517 railway locomotives exported during the year ninety-nine went to Russia, sixty-nine to Japan, sixty-one to China, fifty-nine to Mexico, fifty to Canada, thirty-five to British East India, twenty-five to England, twenty to Sweden and Norway, twenty to Brazil, fourteen to the West Indies and eleven to Africa. One interesting feature of this large exportation of locomotives in 1899 is that 211 of the 517 exported went to Asiatic countries.

SLAVERY IN HAWAII.

One Institution Recently Annexed that Must Be Got Rid Of. Philadelphia Record.

The imperialism which seeks to extend the territorial domain of the United States to the remotest seas may be a grand thing in the eyes of some, but it is a far grander imperialism which extends the guarantees of liberty and personal rights to the humblest dweller beneath the American flag. It is now more than a year since the Hawaiian Islands were solemnly annexed to the United States by joint resolution of congress. The joint resolution declared that the islands were annexed "as a part of the territory of the United States," and were "subject to the sovereign dominion thereof." Yet, with the consent and connivance of the authorities of the United States, there still in Honolulu exists a system of slavery, a system of slavery worse than that of the African slave of the south which so long excited the reprobation of philanthropy and caused at last a great civil war. The slave owners in the south provided for their human property after the war too old and decrepit to work, but under the Hawaiian system men are enslaved for a certain contract period, during which their lifeblood is sucked out of them and then they are flung away to die in want and misery. It appears from the policy of the government that the Hawaiian Islands were annexed for the sole benefit of a few sugar planters and that the rest of the inhabitants are not worthy of consideration. This is what explains why the abominable system of coolie labor flourishes in its pristine vigor on the Hawaiian Islands under the full protection of the government of the United States and under the folds of the starry flag.

WHEAT WILL BE IN DEMAND.

Bad Crop Conditions Abroad Present a Call for Our Surplus. Louisville Courier-Journal.

One thing seems to be quite sure and that is that, while there are large surplus stocks of old wheat in this country, there is going to be a demand for every bushel. The price has been held down by the absence of speculation, but there is seemingly little danger of its dropping below the 70-cent mark. Foreign crop conditions are mostly bad and are getting worse with every report. Commercial authorities are estimating that the French harvest will fall off perhaps 20,000,000 bushels from last year. Our greatest competitor in exports, Russia, is in bad way. Estimates are freely made that the crop will be 85,000,000 to 120,000,000 short of 1898, and the rye crop is also poor in many provinces. Roumania, Italy, Poland and Spain are also reported to be short of last year, and India's crop, harvested last March, fell 17,000,000 bushels below the 1898 yield. The Hungarian, German and Austrian product will be good, but Hungary is the only large exporter of these.

The estimate indicates a falling off of probably 200,000,000 bushels in the European and Indian crops. This ought to be quite enough to keep up the demand for our surplus and perhaps to advance prices very sensibly. At any rate, it is difficult to see how they can be forced lower.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Chauncey Dewey has fifty-two times crossed the ocean.

Jerome Hall Raymond, the new president of the University of Virginia, was a newsboy in early life.

General Wheeler wears as cuff buttons two buttons that were shot off his uniform during the war of the rebellion.

An effort is to be made to secure the passage of a bill by congress to establish chaplaincies in the Life Saving service.

Martin L. Sweet, former mayor of Grand Rapids, Mich., and for years accounted the richest man in the state, is now earning his living by tending the city garbage crematory.

Ex-Governor Warmoth, the first northern governor of Louisiana, has lived down the unpopularity which at one time nearly cost him his life and is now one of the leading sugar planters of the state and a most successful lawyer.

Justice Shiras of the supreme court wrote a letter of advice to a young lawyer the other day, in the course of which he said: "Above all, deserve, secure and keep the confidence of your clients. You will find this your best capital."

The formal inauguration of President Hadley of Yale will take place Wednesday, October 15. Among those who have accepted invitations to be present are President Eliot of Harvard, President Gilman of Johns Hopkins, President Harper of the University of Chicago and Senator Dewey.

A working miner in a coal pit in September, 1898, must of arts of London University in June, 1898—that is the remarkable record of Thomas Rees, M. A., who has just been appointed to a professorship at Brecon college, one of the leading theological institutions in the United Kingdom.

FOUNDERS OF IOWA REPUBLICANISM.

Leaders Who Helped Launch the State Party Organization. Des Moines Register. At least six men in attendance at the Iowa republican state convention were among the founders of the republican party of Iowa. Colonel W. P. Hepburn was a delegate from Marshall county, Judge N. M. Hubbard from Linn county, B. F. Use from Stark county, Dr. F. Pinkham from Johnston county, John Mahin from Muscatine county and Judge C. C. Nourse from Van Buren county at the convention which assembled at Iowa City, February 22, 1856, to organize the republican party in this state. They were all young men then and in their 20's, but they are now among the few survivors of that famous convention which elected delegates to the first republican national convention, which assembled at Philadelphia August 22, 1856. Candidates for state officers and for presidential electors were also nominated, and the first Iowa republican platform framed at that Iowa City convention; and the republican fathers of the state laid the solid foundations that have kept Iowa in the republican column of states from the first election thereafter.

Among the leading spirits of that first Iowa republican state convention were Judge Philip Velle of Lee county, who was chairman of the convention, and John C. Fremont for president. Candidates for state officers and for presidential electors were also nominated, and the first Iowa republican platform framed at that Iowa City convention; and the republican fathers of the state laid the solid foundations that have kept Iowa in the republican column of states from the first election thereafter.

Too much cannot be said of the early fathers of republicanism in Iowa and the nation, and the republicans of Iowa have especial pleasure in the fact that the early Iowa fathers succeeded in organizing a party that has remained true to its principles and its platform since the first election held after that Iowa state convention. That convention nominated Elijah Sells of Muscatine for secretary of state, John Patton of Bremer for auditor of state, M. L. Morris of Polk for treasurer of state, S. A. Rice of Mahaska for state general, and they were elected by majorities of 1,767 for Sells to 7,183 for Rice. The republicans of those days established the loyal custom of voting "the straight republican ticket," a good custom that has gained many victories for the Iowa republicans. The Register believes that all the delegates and voters present at the republican state convention who were delegates to the first Iowa republican state convention should be invited to occupy seats on the stage and that the invitation should be extended each year thereafter as long as there are fathers of the republican party in attendance at the state convention.

We add, as a matter of further interest, that the first ticket named by the republicans of Iowa received 40,687 votes for Elijah Sells, while George Snyder, the democratic candidate for secretary of state, received 32,929 votes. The full republican attendance at that election was about the same as the average republican majority in the state during the last third of a century.

COLLAPSE OF THE RUSKIN COLONY.

Indianapolis News. The Ruskin co-operative colony, whose property in Tennessee was sold by a receiver a few days since, is the last failure of an attempt at socialism. Its large tract of land with eight houses was sold for \$12,465. The colony was formed several years ago to carry out the theories of Fourier and Bellamy. Except the metals, the colony had the raw material for the manufacture of everything essential to its comfort. Its members were skilled in agriculture, horticulture and all the mechanic arts. Every member, regardless of the character of his work, received the same compensation. Every man was required to mend his own clothes, and every woman devoted to the theories of socialism, the Ruskin association has come to an end through the action of a minority of dissatisfied stockholders who had the property put in the hands of a receiver. The majority of the stockholders propose to form a new colony, but most of their assets have been lost in the property, which was sold at about half its cost. The colony's paper, the Coming Nation, which at one time had 90,000 subscribers, has dwindled to 3,000 and the outfit was sold for a trifle. If a colony composed of believers in socialism fails, what may be expected of national socialism?

NOVEL PRISON EXPERIMENT.

New York Herald. A novel experiment that will be watched with keen interest by penologists everywhere is being tried in the Ohio penitentiary.

Four incorrigible convicts—three are murderers and one hopes to be—having made frequent attempts to brutally kill their keepers, the quartet has been locked in one cell and the officials are awaiting the result.

This is certainly the employment of a wholly new method in dealing with murderous inclined prisoners. There being no authentic precedent, except in the well known case of the Kilkenny cats, the outcome can hardly be prophesied with confidence. True, the records of the inmates of the cell lead to the belief that after a while there will be fewer prisoners than there were, but until we learn which one of the gentlemen survived, the Ohio experiment will not have really demonstrated its usefulness as aiding "the survival of the fittest."

All we can do is to wait patiently till Ohio reports that disturbances in the cell are concluded and notifies students of prison reform how and on whom the experiment worked.

DEBTS OF AMERICAN CITIES.

New York Sun. The municipal debt of New York City (\$240,000,000) is not excessive when compared with its vast resources for purposes of taxation and with the debts of other American cities. The gross debt of Philadelphia, which has about one-third of the population of New York, is \$60,000,000, and of Boston, with a population of about one-sixth, \$40,000,000. Baltimore's debt, as returned officially on January 1, was \$37,500,000. The assessed value of real estate in these three important American cities is \$2,900,000,000, against \$1,000,000,000 in New York City.

The cities of older settlement in the acquisition of such municipal assets as buildings, docks, bridges, parks, aqueducts, markets and court house have incurred liabilities for the payment of which the tangible security is ample, wholly apart from the taxing power conferred upon the city for the collection of interest. Thus the debt of Philadelphia is about twice as much as the present debt of St. Louis and five times that of Chicago. The debt of Boston exceeds considerably the debt of any western city, even of larger size, and Providence, a city of 150,000 inhabitants, has a larger debt than Cleveland, a city of 400,000.

THE LYNCHING MANIA.

If Not Checked Mob Law May Become a Permanent Institution. Boston Globe. At the present rate of lynching in this country some people will find reason to fear that it may yet become a permanent institution, if not checked by some means not yet devised.

Replying to a speech of Hon. F. B. Thurber of New York, in which he condemned mob violence in the south, Clark Howell attempts to defend his section by declaring that there has been less mob violence in Georgia than in Illinois, where negroes were shot down for coming into competition with white labor, and that in general any complaint Mr. Thurber might make of the south in the way of lawlessness applies equally well to other sections.

But even were such a statement true, which few will believe, it cannot be properly used in apology for violence. That which chiefly marks the infamy of lynchings in the south is that they are visited almost wholly upon negroes. Of the 158 victims of lynch law last year all but nine of them were negroes. Had the 157 negroes lynched in 1898 been presumably guilty of criminal assault this might not seem so strange, but the fact is that only 15 per cent were charged with this crime.

Of the 157 negro victims of mob violence in the south last year 124 were lynched for offenses which in the south, Clark Howell simply a fine or imprisonment, or both. Such figures make it plainly evident that race prejudice rather than the offenses themselves were at the bottom of the lynchings.

Equally before the law is one of the foundation pillars of magna charta. Communities that become a law unto themselves should at least live up to this principle, instead of measuring the penalties of crime by the color of the victim's skin. That shocking crime in which a steadily increased since the mania for lynching possessed some sections of the country and somewhat contaminated all is but in keeping with the recorded effects of extreme violence throughout all history.

WITH THE FUNNY MEN.

Detroit Free Press: "Do you think the thieves robbed woman of her girlish shyness?" "No, if anything has done it, it is the soda fountain."

Philadelphia North American: She-Yon represented yourself for worth a million before we were married. He—Purely a figure of speech, my dear.

Washington Star: "Did I understand you to say something about teaching the young lads how to shoot?" asked a Clay county (Kentucky) citizen. "Yes," replied the man who is interested in the work of education. "Well, so far as this part of the country is concerned you are working on the wrong line. What you want to do is to watch the boys at recess, and lam the first one that strikes a gun to the wall with it."

Somerville Journal: Winks—understand that Jenkins has inherited \$100,000. Hinks—Yes, and he is putting on airs already. Every August since I have known him he has had a gold in his head. This August he says he has hay fever.

Indianapolis Journal: She—A man called today who said he had just got back from the Klondike. He—What did he want—to buy the place or beg some old clothes?

Philadelphia North American: "O'Hara broke his arm the first day at his new job." "Breaking things in is his specialty."

The Dimecity. Washington Star. "It's easy," the reformer said, "with care upon his brow, go to tell me what you are going to do, but hard to tell them how."

THE WORLD'S MUSIC.

Gabriel Setoun. The world's a very happy place, When a child should dance and sing, And always have a smiling face, And never sulk for anything.