THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of July, 1899, was as follows:

1	26,060	17	25,020
2	27,000	18	24,790
3	25,110	19	24,700
4	25,400	20	24,670
5	26,050	21	24,580
6	25,560	22	24,720
7	25,440	23	26,255
8	25,440	24	24,060
9	27,355	25	24,530
10	25,290	26	24,790
11	25,480	27	24,770
12	24,920	28	24,930
13	25,232	29	24,810
14	25,400	30	26,150
15	25,060	31	25,010
16	26,040		

Total 785,882
Less unsold and returned copies.... 10,479
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Net daily average..... 25,013

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 31st day of July, 1899. L. E. BOYLE, (Seal.) Notary Public.

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.

It would be far better to put electric wires underground than firemen.

The bag manufactures have formed a combine. The stockholders will be holding the sack in the end.

South Omaha still continues to be the only great packing center which shows a steady increase in receipts of hogs as compared with last year and is keeping up the rate of increase.

General MacArthur demonstrated to the Filipinos that the rains have not washed out the courage of the Americans and that they are still able to fight just as well as ever.

The Tenth Pennsylvania volunteers will accept Omaha's hospitality en-route home from the Philippines. They may be assured in advance of an enthusiastic and cordial reception.

A Kansas City judge has secured an injunction to restrain the city from cutting the weeds in front of his place. He says it would not look like home to a Kansas City man if they were cut down.

A new $1,000,000 corporation has been formed in Denver with the avowed object of fighting the smelter trust. This ought to furnish another good mark for the 16 to 1 free silver campaign contribution solicitors.

The government which succeeded that of the assassinated president of Santo Domingo appears to have more kinds of trouble than it knows what to do with. Even the policemen refuse to listen to its tale of woe.

A Kansas democrat declares that democrats have a right to think. Certainly they have. The principal trouble with democrats is that they seldom exercise the right, because those who do soon cease to be democrats.

There are hundreds of vacant lots in Omaha owned by non-residents. A rank growth of weeds renders these neglected lots unsightly to say the least. Owners of such lots ought to be required to abate the nuisance.

The generous citizens of Omaha will not be backward in coming to the relief of the families of the four firemen who have just lost their lives in the performance of duty. A more just cause demanding public charity is seldom presented.

From the latest advices from Filipino headquarters it is evident Aguinaldo believes revolutions are as easily started in this country as in Spanish possessions. If he counts on holding out until such an event occurs the war is destined to be of long duration.

The occupation of firemen is dangerous enough at the best without having the lives of these brave men endangered by a network of overhead wires, many of them carrying deadly currents of electricity, every time they respond to an alarm.

When the chairman of a republican county central committee gives public notice to its members through the medium of a popocratic paper he deliberately provokes dissension in the ranks of the party for which he pretends to speak and shows his utter unfitness for the place he holds.

Governor Poynter evidently saw a new light when he was in San Francisco. The long delayed answer to the invitation to assist in the reception of the First Nebraska has appeared and he accepts. Better late than never, but it would have come in much better grace if he had not sulked so long.

BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR PRODUCERS.

According to foreign advices there is a bright outlook for American producers. One London correspondent says the probability is that European demands upon American farmers will be heavier this year than last. He remarks that should the crops in the Indian northwest fail, as it is feared they will, much larger food supplies must come from the United States and again give to this country supreme command over the London money market.

The indications are very favorable to this view and if it shall prove to be correct we shall have another year of heavy exports, with higher prices for our breadstuffs. The prospect also is that there will be an abundant supply to meet whatever demand may be made upon us.

It can be confidently predicted that the next year will increase the net balance in our favor, but probably this will not be so large as for the past year, because imports are increasing. Last year the net balance fell off nearly $90,000,000 from that of the preceding year, due to increased imports, and the tendency in this direction continues, thus making it probable that there will be a further reduction of the balance. But it will still be large. At the rate of change shown this year as compared with last, says the New York Times, the balance would still amount to about $400,000,000, which would be quite enough to give supreme command over the London money market.

There is every reason why American producers should look with confidence to the immediate future. They will assuredly have as good a home market next year as they have had for the last two years and the foreign market is likely to be nearly if not quite as good, for there will be new sources of demand. And there is an abundant supply of money for moving the crops, though they should be much larger than now estimated.

THE KAISER IS CORDIAL.

Americans generally and German-Americans especially will read with pleasure of the cordial reception given by Emperor William to the Americans who called on him at Kiel and his expressions of friendly feeling toward the United States. Of course the kaiser had given no credence to the statement attributed to Admiral Dewey in regard to the relations between Germany and this country. No one at all familiar with Dewey's character for discretion and common sense could doubt for a moment that the report was a bold misrepresentation, to characterize it moderately. But it gave Emperor William an opportunity to avow his good will toward this country, which was done with evident sincerity.

He remarked that German-Americans would take good care that friendly relations between the two countries are maintained "and would not permit any aggressive hostile policy toward Germany." There are several millions of American citizens of German nativity and they constitute an influential element of our population. While the memory of the "fatherland" is dear to them they are none the less patriotic Americans, and in any controversy that may arise between the two countries they will be found as faithfully supporting American interests as any other element of our citizens, native or foreign-born. It is not easy to conceive of an aggressive hostile policy toward Germany, possible of adoption by this country, which would array German-Americans against the United States.

However, the friendly utterances of the German emperor are highly gratifying and will have a good effect outside of Germany.

HAVE WE ERRED IN CUBA?

There is much evidence that the condition of affairs in Cuba is not satisfactory. There is a great deal of popular discontent with the military administration. The feeling is strong and probably growing among the Cubans that the United States either does not intend that they shall have independence, or that their realization of the aspiration for self-government is a long way off. The business of the island has not improved as rapidly as it was expected to do after the American occupation and a great many of the people are still idle and destitute. In short, there is a state of affairs not on the whole creditable to this government.

The director of finance for the department of posts of Havana, Mr. Charles F. W. Neely, now in Washington in connection with the business of his department, is of the opinion that in relation to the administration of civil affairs generally in Cuba a mistake was made by the government in sending military men to govern the people. The trouble with military governors, in the judgment of this official, is that they lacked that experience necessary to deal successfully with civil affairs and with civilians. He expressed the highest admiration for General Brooke, General Ludlow and other officers of the army, but did not think they had the proper equipment and were sufficiently broad in their views to successfully administer the affairs of the island. A criticism of this kind would certainly not apply to General Leonard Wood, whose administration of the province of Santiago has been marked by exceptional judgment and ability and he had a not less difficult task than the others. When what has been accomplished in other provinces is compared with what Wood has done there will appear to be substantial ground for Mr. Neely's view.

It has been commonly supposed that the governor general of Cuba has acted entirely under instructions from Washington, but it appears that he has proceeded largely upon his own responsibility and that he has not even kept the Washington authorities fully informed as to what he was doing. It is stated that the reports received at the War department from General Brooke in reference to the establishment of a civil government and the general administration of civil affairs on the island have been meager and unsatisfactory and he has been directed to report to the secretary of war not later than October 1, giving full details of the condition of affairs in each of the provinces, what has been done in the direction of setting up a civil government and all other matters relating to the administration of civil affairs. It is rather remarkable that the government is not already in possession of this information and there has evidently been inexcusable dereliction on the part of some one besides General Brooke.

It appears to be the earnest desire of President McKinley to institute civil government in Cuba as rapidly as practicable and there is every reason to believe that the secretary of war is in full sympathy with this purpose. In furtherance of this the president may find it expedient to send to Cuba some one thoroughly qualified to establish civil government—a statesman who would command, as no soldier perhaps can, the respect and confidence of the Cuban people. If this were done there can be no doubt it would have a reassuring effect upon the Cubans and do away with the resentment they now feel to military rule—a rule, it is to be borne in mind, that was not contemplated when the United States intervened to give Cuba freedom and self-government.

A TIMELY APPEAL.

The appeal issued by Mayor Moores to the citizens of Omaha for the relief of the families of the four brave firemen who lost their lives in the line of duty should arouse the generous sympathy of this community. The death of these heroic fire fighters is a public bereavement and by rights the city of Omaha should always have a reserve fund at its disposal for placing above want the families of men who lose their lives in trying to save life and property. The time will doubtless come when the raising of such a fund by taxation will be made compulsory by law. In the meantime, however, the sacred duty devolves upon the city and its citizens to make some reparation to the families bereft of support through voluntary contributions.

It is to be hoped the call of the mayor will meet with hearty response on the part of citizens who are in condition to testify in a substantial way their appreciation of the sacrifice made.

ANOTHER COSTLY LESSON.

The latest disaster that has overtaken the fire department originated in a chemical laboratory, either through defective electric wiring or combustion brought about by some explosive material. The death of the four firemen is known to have been caused by a live electric lighting wire. These facts are within themselves suggestive. They recall in the first place the necessity for a system of inspection for all structures within the city limits in which explosives are stored and all mills and factories and storehouses that fabricate or handle chemical compounds that are highly combustible or explosive. In the next place they suggest the importance of more rigid inspection of electric wiring, especially in buildings in which combustible materials are manufactured or stored. Last, but not least, they suggest the imperative need of a municipal subway in which wires used for the transmission of light or power shall be conducted from street to street and building to building, so that the overhead system of wires, which is a constant menace to members of the fire department and to inmates compelled to seek escape from buildings on fire, shall be done away with.

While the construction of a complete system of subways for the entire city will take many years and will involve an outlay of a vast sum, such a system should be planned at once and a beginning should be made at the earliest possible moment within the business center, where the danger always will be greatest. It goes without saying that Omaha never will be a safe place for firemen to operate in until the power and lighting wires are strung in underground conduits.

We apprehend the action of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Vanderlip in reducing the salaries of several chiefs and assistant chiefs of a division of the auditor's office just because he found the clerks reading newspapers and loitering during working hours will stamp him as altogether unappreciative of the license public office is supposed to confer. Mr. Vanderlip was a newspaper man before called to his present position, so we know he realizes fully the educating and instructive effects newspaper reading is sure to have upon the Treasury department clerks. To be sure the work of the auditing bureau is two years behind and more clerical force is constantly demanded, but then has not the use of time paid for by Uncle Sam for newspaper reading the sanction of time immemorial? Should Mr. Vanderlip's policy be enforced in other departments of the government, federal, state and municipal, we fear the newspaper habit might suffer perceptibly among office holders and public employes.

The repeated bursting of the hose at the Mercer fire, handicapping the fire fighters in their efforts to suppress the flames, brings forcibly home the false economy of cutting down the fire fund levy to a point which absolutely bars the maintenance of the department upon the footing demanded in a city of Omaha's size and importance. The best fire force cannot be expected to do its work properly and efficiently when lacking in equipment or supplied with hose that has ceased to be serviceable and ought to be replaced with new material. A penny wise policy with the departments of a city charged with the protection of life and property does not pay.

Auditor Cornell's system of interpreting constitutional law is as elastic as his ideas on some other topics. The Weaver law is so clearly unconstitutional in his opinion that he cannot turn the books and papers over to the commissioner under that law or issue vouchers for expenses incurred in that office. The appropriation clause of the act is all right, however, when the money drawn goes into the pockets of one of his own deputies. If Chief Justice Marshall were to return to life he could learn many things from Auditor Cornell which the distinguished jurist never dreamed of.

It will surprise no one to learn definitely at any time that the head offices of the Oregon Short Line are to be moved back to Omaha. If it be true that segregation was effected with the object of shearing the main line of the Union Pacific of all its dependencies during the process of foreclosure of the government lien, it would seem reasonable to expect that the new owners of the road will get back all the profitable feeders as soon as possible. Considerations of economy would dictate that the lines be operated from Omaha, the legal and traditional headquarters of the great system.

"One thing is developing itself for a certainty and that is that the First Nebraska veterans will soon be cutting a big figure in Nebraska politics," says the local popocratic organ. What more open admission could be made that the politicians' solicitude for the returned volunteers is inspired solely by political motives?

Head Them Eastward.
Chicago Chronicle.

An army of toads several miles in length is moving through northwestern Iowa. Here is an opportunity for New York society to get a full meal.

Grabbing the Horns, as Usual.
Baltimore American.

It is reported that in the west the goats are masquerading as sheep. This certainly looks like taking one of the most respected traditions literally by the horns.

Settled for All Time.
Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Spanish general, Toral, has been acquitted at Madrid for the surrender of Santiago to the United States forces. We may infer therefore that the surrender still holds good.

Must Speak, or Die.
New York Sun.

Colonel Bryan has roused hot choler among the anti-Goebelites by announcing his purpose to invade Kentucky and make speeches in behalf of that pure and noble statesman, Hon. Bill Goebel. The colonel should be pitied and pardoned. Imperious speech swells within him. He must speak or die. Nothing can do Goebel any good, and it will do the colonel so much good to make a speech!

Canada's Perplexing Position.
Chicago News.

France is watching the dispute over the Alaska boundary with considerable interest, as it bears a close resemblance to its own controversy over the Newfoundland shore. In both cases a colony without power of its own to make its will respected insists on imposing its will in the matter in dispute upon the country upon which it is dependent and upon which the burden of fighting must fall in case of war. As the Frenchmen say, this position is anomalous. It is difficult to suggest a remedy, however, unless England is prepared to take a firm stand and place imperial interests before colonial at the possible expense of losing part of its empire.

Uncle Sam's Alaskan Lushers.
Chicago Chronicle.

Considering some of the stories that are told of United States officials in Alaska, the Canadians can hardly be blamed for evincing some trepidation at the prospect of American ascendency in that region. A United States consul who gets drunk, wraps himself in the American flag and hires a negro porter to kick him; a United States commissioner who holds court in a faro bank and openly asks for bribes; a customs official who is ostracized from decent society—these are some of the American representatives who, according to returned Klondikers, are maintaining the dignity of the stars and stripes in the gold regions. It is to be expected, of course, that men living in mining camps should become careless of the refinements of civilization, but the proceedings of the gentlemen named certainly transcend the limits of frontier license. If we can't get creditable representatives in Alaska we should at least be able to secure men who will stay fairly sober.

A PROSPEROUS NATION.

Remarkable Evidence of the Growth of Trade and Industry.
Philadelphia Press.

Not in a quarter of a century has there been such a demand at labor bureaus for help as is the case generally over the United States today. A Chicago newspaper says that there are 2,000 unfilled applications for help on file at the Illinois State Labor bureau. Both labor and capital are fully employed.

Wages have generally advanced throughout the country. The vast horde of idle millions in the banks at the beginning of this administration is now so fully employed that there is talk of an insufficient reserve. In New York alone the surplus reserve is now about $10,000,000, as compared with $45,000,000 at the corresponding period of 1897. The deposits in the banks throughout the nation have increased enormously.

A recognized standard of prosperity is found in the consumption of pig iron. For the first six months of this year over 2,000,000 tons more of pig iron were consumed than in the first half of the year 1897. The dealings in the New York Stock exchange for seven months this year were greater by $5,500,000,000 than for the corresponding period last year. The exports of manufacturers for the last fiscal year were in value $61,000,000 greater than for the fiscal year of 1897.

It would be easy to go on multiplying these evidences of great prosperity to be found on every side. But it is not denied by anybody. It is the result of the election of McKinley and a republican congress and the passage of the Dingley bill. Sound money and the redemption of the pledges of the government were assured by the republican success of 1896. Somewhat similar prosperity followed the return of the republicans to power in 1889 and the passage of the McKinley bill. But true to its Bourbon instincts the democratic party, or the great majority of its members, are beginning another campaign on the thoroughly exploded doctrines of the Chicago platform of 1896. That demands free trade, free silver coinage and a repudiation of everything done by the republican party which has brought about the unprecedented era of prosperity that now prevails over all the land.

Will the people be fooled again as they were in 1892? There are no evidences of another such a national blunder, and we do not believe that there is any danger of its repetition.

ECHOES OF THE WAR.

Deeds of valor and self-sacrifice in the face of the enemy are not always accompanied by rhetorical fireworks. A correspondent of the Philadelphia North American illustrates the point with an incident. "See the Filipino, who thinks he's hidin' in the tree over there?" asked the Oregon man, leaning over the trench and sighting his rifle.

"Now you don't see him," he added, as the shot rang out and the rebel fell dead in the brush.

"Another son of Mr. Aguinaldo benevolently assimilated," commented the Kansan.

Fifty yards down the line a sharp groan followed a shot from the other side. The Kansan bent forward and took in the scene. "Pennsylvania man hit," he commented. "'Nother hero fer the folks at home."

"One of these days when I get rich," says a former Rough Rider, "I'm goin' to visit my grave in Cuby an' put posies on it."

"Your grave!" exclaimed the listener.

"Yep. Sounds funny, don't it; but it's straight. It was this way. Arter Guasimas our fellers had other important business on hand, and cudden't go off an' look fer me when I turned up missin'. So they gave my description to the hospital gang, an' asked as a partic'lar favor if my body was found to give it decent buryin'. 'Course the hospital fellers cudden't be extra partic'lar, so when they comes across a dead 'un who looks reasonable like me, they digs a grave an' buries him, an' puts a wooden monyment over him, sayin':

"Here lies the body of poor old
Bill Witherup,
of the Rough Riders, who
died a hero for his country
at Las Guasimas."

"But I wussen't dead at all; 'stead I had been tuck to the hospital by another gang and moved to Wykoff,' where I rounded up O. K. an' welcomed the boys when they come marchin' home. Then they told me about the monyment, an' when I get rich I'm goin' to pay that grave a visit an' honor the chap who had himself buried in my place."

Something like a practical test of the popularity of General Otis with the soldiers has been secured at Rhinebeck, N. Y., where members of the Astor military are drilling in the hope that their services will be accepted for duty in the Philippines. On the advice of one of them who has just returned from Manila they voted on the question as to whether they should offer their services as long as Otis remained in charge, and decided in the negative by a vote of 37 to 9.

The editor of Manila Freedom waxes eloquent, profuse and picturesque in painting the charms of Manila bay. List to his lay: "When the rising sun tints the clouds that top the numerous mountain ranges with roseate and golden hues and pale wreaths of mist still hover over the lowlands, it is then in the glamor of the new-born day that beautiful Manila bay is seen at its best. Completely landlocked, it offers a safe refuge to the fleets of the world from the dreaded typhoon, which annually causes so much disaster and loss of life and property in the tempestuous China seas. Its broad expanse can harbor the navies of all nations; the largest vessels can find a safe anchorage, though at times, during the season of storms and rain, a heavy ground-swell renders navigation by means of small craft an extremely difficult, not to say dangerous task. A breakwater protects the entrance to the Pasig river, which is lined with the most numerous miscellaneous assortment of cosmopolitan crafts that the human mind can conceive. Gunboats, trim and neat, their burnished metal gleaming like molten gold beneath the rays of the tropical sun, large merchant steamers and sailing vessels of every description, from a piratical (sub rosa when they get a chance) Chinese or Malay junk to a government canal boat or barge, from a skysail yarder to an outrigger log canoe, each contributing with their multi-colored and variously attired crew, to the Oriental, quaint, picturesque scene, spread like a gigantic panorama before the stranger's eye. Colossal army transports discharge their human freight; swift cruisers and battleships, equipped with every modern engine of warfare and scientific implement which human ingenuity can construct and devise, lightly ride at anchor on the bosom of the bay, keeping faithful watch by day and night, throwing their bright, penetrating searchlight into the remotest corner of a hostile shore, its clear, glittering eye casting terror into the heart of the rebel. It speaks to him of a great nation's wrath, its ceaseless watchfulness and its power to punish. E Pluribus Unum! May the legend on the starry banner, telling its tale of unity and strength, ever float before the loyal, faithful boys who fight beneath the eagle's wings, and, speaking to them of their country's might and greatness, inspire them with renewed courage and lead them on to future victories. Pike's Peak or bust! The Philippines, brightest jewels in the crown of Spain, are a prize worth winning and well worth fighting for. The boys in blue and brown are alert and ready for the fray on land; the proudest and mightiest of "Hall, Columbia's!" battleships ride on the placid bosom of beautiful Manila bay, grim, trusty guardians and sentinels of the paradise lost to Spain. The issue rests with God, who guards the right!"

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Lord Kitchener is the fourth bachelor who has been elevated to the peerage in the last seven years.

Lieutenant P. W. Hourigan of the Olympia is to be received in his native town of Albany, N. Y., with a procession and the presentation of a sword.

It is not generally known that Samuel M. Jones, better known as "the Golden Rule Mayor of Toledo," is a native of Wales, where he was born at Ty Mawr, on August 3, 1846.

Joseph Jefferson studied medicine early in life and intended to become a physician. He attributes his good health to strictly keeping the rules which he laid down for himself while an enthusiastic medical student.

Rear Admiral Schley is spending his midsummer vacation at the cottage of his son-in-law, R. M. S. Worthley, on the Connecticut shore of Long Island sound, where he amuses himself fishing for striped bass.

General Longstreet, the noted cavalry leader of the civil war, is traveling in the west. The general holds the office of United States railroad commissioner and is making his annual tour of inspection of the land grants and bond-aided roads in preparation for the report which he will submit to the secretary of the interior in November.

Convict No. 4,274, editor of the Star of Hope, published in Sing Sing prison, fully realizes that the prerogatives of journalism depend somewhat on the forethought and enterprise of the individual journalist himself and he has accordingly applied to the prison authorities for permission to witness and report for his paper the New York reception to Admiral Dewey. He wants to boom the circulation, he says, and knows of no better way.

The lynchings and other summary removal of foreigners by the citizens of this country without due process of law has cost the national treasury a pretty penny. In the last five years indemnity claims for such outrages amount to about $500,000. China has been paid for the Rock Springs (Wyo.) massacre, $147,748.74; for outrages on the Pacific coast, $276,619.15. Italy has received for the killing of Italian prisoners at New Orleans, $24,330.90, and for lynchings at Walsenburg, Colo., $10,000. The British government has been paid $2,800 for the outrages on James Bain and Frederick Dawson. To these figures must, of course, be added the cost of examining and trying the claims.

HOLCOMB'S EXPLANATION.

North Platte Tribune: When Bartley, Moore and Hilton "went wrong" every republican paper in the state denounced them and demanded that they promptly be brought to justice. But how different with the popocratic papers in regard to the ballot frauds perpetrated at Lincoln; not one of them denounced the men who sought by high-handed and dishonest acts to thwart the will of the people as expressed at the ballot box.

Wahoo Wasp: Again ex-Governor Holcomb comes forward with an explanation regarding the house rent money, and declares that the money taken from the state treasury, something over $700, was expended for repairs; accompaning his statement is a certificate of good character by the husband of the woman who owns the house. As the state made no appropriation for repairing other people's residences his explanation seems somewhat out of joint.

Crete Vidette: Holcomb defends himself on the grounds that all his predecessors took more house rent than he did. The constitution says that the governor shall receive $2,500 per annum and shall have no other perquisites. When the legislature appropriated $1,500 house rent for Governor Crounse he immediately vetoed the bill because it was unconstitutional. If Thayer and Boyd took the "loot" that is no excuse for Holcomb. Two wrongs do not make a right.

Plattsmouth Journal (dem.): Because a public official, who has been derelict in his duty, chances to have been elected as a democrat or a populist is no reason why his offenses should be condoned and his conduct defended by the reform press. A man who displays all of the characteristics of a republican should not be allowed to bring disgrace upon the true believers in the principles of the fusion parties without a protest from the organs of those parties and whenever a democratic or populistic paper attempts to cover up and hide from public view the shortcomings or longreachings of Cornell and others of his ilk, who have proven themselves unworthy of the confidence reposed in them, that paper does the cause as much harm as does the guilty official. It shakes the confidence of the people and leads them to believe that no more faith can be placed in what the paper says than though it were a republican sheet. No harm can come of telling the truth at any time. Every one knows that we have had a few dishonest or incompetent officials, but even among the disciples of Christ there were some who were untrue to their trusts, and if the fusionists expose and rid themselves of such people as soon as they are discovered no harm can come to the parties. If, on the other hand, they are upheld in their meanness and their guilt denied in spite of the proof, we place ourselves on a par with republicans and forfeit all claims upon the confidence of the people. Tell the truth!

Seward Reporter: The populist state officials may think that by refusing to recognize the authority of the committee they can ward off the effect of the investigation, but such will not prove to be the case. The fact that state officers who were being investigated refused to give evidence before the committee, and instead of giving it assistance hampered it in every way possible, tended to prejudice people against the officials. The people have read the testimony taken before the committee, and they know that the showing made is a bad one for the state officers. That a bold attempt was made to change the result of the election and count in the supreme court amendment, the evidence clearly shows, and no amount of assumed dignity on the part of the officers can remove the fact from the minds of the people. Ex-Governor Holcomb, too, is not in a very pleasant situation. His refusal to go before the committee and be sworn made him appear ridiculous, and his letters to the committee afforded very little explanation of the matter referred to. It seems to be proven beyond question that he drew nearly twice as much money for house rent as he paid, and his statement that other governors did the same does not help the matter any. The plain fact is, the investigation has shaken up the populists considerably, and has shown that men who are professional reformers are sometimes no better than other people.

Fremont Tribune: Former Governor Holcomb, after two weeks' denial of the authority of the senate investigating committee and after having decided to ignore its findings, has finally submitted a brief in self-defense. The committee has managed to get Mr. Holcomb into a corner and he was compelled to say something in order to furnish his friends an excuse, however impotent, to justify his course. When the committee reported he as governor had drawn $773.20 more for house rent than he expended and recommended suit brought for its recovery there was only one thing for him to do, and that was to make as good a defense as possible. He now claims he expended the difference between what he paid for rent and what he drew for the purpose for repairs and that was done in pursuance of the stipulations in his lease. But Mr. Holcomb, while furnishing a long list of irrelevant vouchers on file in the auditor's office, does not furnish an itemized account of his receipts for expenses which can only be competent evidence at this stage of the game. The nearest he comes to this is his statement that in 1897 he expended $25.15 for this purpose. Mr. Holcomb has taken the trouble to hunt up the vouchers issued for house rent ever since the legislature began setting apart a sum for that purpose, and the amount that lapsed into the treasury. Sometimes the money was all drawn and sometimes some of it was not used. Mr. Holcomb never drew quite all that was available and is of course to be credited with this. Some men would have taken it all, but they have never been elected governor on account of their scrupulous and conspicuous honesty. He offers these vouchers to show that he followed precedent and with a lawyer precedent is everything, for it makes law. But the people of Nebraska can scarcely be satisfied with Mr. Holcomb's defense, which might be more properly designated an apology. He has not yet cleared his skirts through his specious plea made for the purpose.

REVELING IN BILLIONS.

Bewildering Statistics of Capitalization Recorded by Trusts.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

An estimate is made that in the last six months the trusts have piled up a greater capitalization than the world ever witnessed before in periods of the wildest inflation. The Wool and Cotton Reporter figures that between January and July the new trusts represented on paper a capitalization of $7,370,783,383, of which $1,628,706,900 was preferred and $5,742,076,483 was common stock. In the opinion of the same journal the preferred stock includes everything of tangible value, and it is "forced to the conclusion that two-thirds of the trust capitalization is 'water,' pure and simple." Seven billions is a good deal of money, when it is money and not merely paper certificates. It would pay the national debt of France, the largest in the world, leaving a balance almost sufficient to discharge the British debt also. The total assessed valuation of the United States in 1890 was less than four times the total of new trust capitalization in this country within the last six months. Seven billions would settle a fourth of the total indebtedness of all nations. It is nearly eight times the assessed valuation of Missouri in the last census year.

Probably there are people who like to have their imagination fired with billions. Stretching out an interminable row of ciphers is a pleasing occupation to some, and, unless they are investors, no harm may result. There is so much talk of trusts that it is well to keep a watch upon them statistically. It must be remarked that they are more interested in persons with a large surplus of cash uninvested than in grinding the faces of the poor. Persons of small means do not aspire to the region where the talk is of billions and where millions are the mere pennies of the vast prospectuses put forward. To a large degree the trust business is experimental. Beyond a doubt the people can regulate it, but no one can protect investors except themselves. They need the note of warning at this time more than any other class, but perhaps those who are caught with the bait of billions would be apt to fall victims to some other inflated lure.

PENSION ROLL DECREASING.

First Instance of the Kind Recorded in Twenty Years.
Milwaukee Sentinel.

The pension list has stopped growing. This is the legitimate deduction from the fact that during the year 1898 there was a decrease of 1,500 in the total number of people on the pension roll as compared with 1897. According to Pension Commissioner Evans this is the first time since 1897 that there has been a decrease of this kind recorded, which indicates that it is due to the numerous deaths among pensioners. It is the opinion of the pension commissioner that the decrease will grow steadily from now on. He says that the average age of veterans of the civil war is not far from 60 years and that death is sure to make great inroads upon their number every year. Even the increase in the pension list that is likely to come from those entitled to pensions on claims arising during the Spanish war is likely to be smaller than the decrease from deaths among pensioners. It seems somewhat remarkable that the turning point in the pension list has not arrived sooner. It is now thirty-four years since the civil war was ended and there has been no war since until last year. Yet up to 1898 the list has been growing, especially in latter years owing to liberal pension legislation. It is, therefore, to be expected that the pensioners of the war with Spain will keep on being added to the list for over thirty years to come unless our pension legislation is of a more businesslike sort hereafter. The experience of so many years should certainly have the effect of evolving a more perfect system that will prevent a long drawn out series of pension enactments creating new classes of pensioners from year to year.

BRIGHT AND SMILING.

Chicago News: "I think I'll try to reduce my weight," said the corpulent corner grocer.

"You've been reducing it too much already," responded the customer with the fourteen-ounce pound of sugar.

Philadelphia Record: "Hello, old boy!" exclaimed the first flea. "Have you been taking a vacation?"

"Yes," returned the other, "I've been on a tramp for the last week or so."

Kansas City Journal: "I have an awful pain in my back," said an old woman to her doctor in Topeka.

"Probably you have rheumatism," responded the doctor.

"Mebby it is, doctor, but Sister Mary thinks I've got the limburger."

Chicago Tribune: "Now that your wife is away, I suppose you are 'keeping bach,'" "Yes—a batch of unruly children."

Philadelphia North American: Petey—Say, pop—

The Pater—Well?

Petey—Will a man get piebald if he eats too much pie?

Detroit Free Press: "How is it that you and Jones haven't spoken for years? I can remember when you were inseparable friends."

"We agreed to correct each other's errors in grammar. At the end of the third day the same house would not hold us both and we have never become reconciled since."

GOLDEN DREAM DISPELLED.

Denver Post.

The poet wrote of the pretty flowers, of the birds in the waving trees,
Of the butterflies on their gaudy wings that spangled the passing breeze,
Of the hum of the bees in the sylvan dell, of the sunlight's silvery sheen,
Of the liquid notes of the babbling brook that threaded the meadow green.
Of a shaded path, like the flowery trail that led to the Promised Land,
Of lovers, thrilled with ecstatic bliss, there wandering hand in hand,
The dreamy cast of the tender blue that tinted the maiden's eyes
Enhanced by the godlike words she heard till it rivaled the azure skies.

A maiden fair as a painter's dream sat reading the words inspired,
And her heart, scarce scarred by the shafts of love, with admiration was fired,
And she pictured the poet half-man, half-god, who lived with his head in the skies,
With clear-cut features of marble tint and pensive and dreamy eyes.
His raven hair o'er his shoulders fell like a silk-finish cataract,
And she vowed she would meet with the muse-ruled man, would enter his mystic lair,
And bask in the light of his pensive smile, for maybe her fate was there!

She handed her card to the office boy, he took it with senseless grin,
She heard a voice from the inner room: "I'm busy, but chase her in!"
And she gave a glance at the shirt-sleeved man, at the collarless shirt he wore,
And then retreated, her dream dispelled, like a meteor through the door!
The pungent fumes from the old cob pipe he was pulling at made her sick,
His hair was clipped like a pugilist's, and red as a fresh-burned brick,
And the soulful eyes she had dreamed about had a sort of a squinty glare,
And the girl fell over herself three times as she staggered adown the stair!

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