

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Table with subscription rates: Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$6.00; Daily Bee and Sunday, One Year, \$8.00; Sunday Bee, One Year, \$2.50; Sunday Bee and Illustrated, One Year, \$3.00; Sunday Bee, One Year, \$2.00; Sunday Bee, One Year, \$1.50; Weekly Bee, One Year, \$1.00.

Advertisements: Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

Business Letters: Business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha.

Remittances: Remit by draft, express or postal order, payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

Table showing circulation statistics for the Omaha Daily Bee, including total circulation, net total sales, and net daily average.

George B. Tschuck, Notary Public.

Thursday, October 19, is registration day. Mark it down.

From now on until election Nebraska will flow with campaign oratory.

The wind storm which visited Nebraska this week will have its uses. It blew the corn down so that it will be possible to gather it without the use of stepladders.

An extraordinary session of the Montana legislature is brutal. They must mean by that a session in which none of the members are accused of bribery or of receiving bribes.

People in Nebraska can appreciate what a fine country they live in when they read the accounts of snow blockades at this season of the year in other sections of the country.

The democrats are sparing no effort to keep control of the county board whose patronage they have enjoyed for the last year. A taste of the spoils only cultivates a demand for more.

The colored voters are not to be caught by Bryanite talk. Several regiments of their race are doing good service over in the Philippines and they are not willing to believe them to be murderers and assassins.

It is really too bad that accident happened to Shamrock. The American people expect to keep that cup, but they prefer to give the challenger a run for his money, since he has proved himself such a royal good fellow.

Under the new law registrars will this year ask each voter who presents himself for registration this question: "What political party do you desire to affiliate with?" Let every republican answer: "The republican party."

Whenever the World-Herald gets into a tight corner it plays cutthroat and tries to cover up its crooked tracks by shedding an inkly fluid. The cutthroat game, however, has been played so often that it no longer fools intelligent people.

The Commercial club is planning a trip to the south along territory which is to be put in close connection with Omaha by the opening of the Illinois Central. This is a rich territory which should not be neglected by Omaha's business men.

Remember that in order to vote at the coming election you must first have your name entered on the registration lists. No previous registration list holds good. Registration day is Thursday, October 19. Do not neglect this important duty.

Mr. Iselin's yacht is not the only Columbia possessed of speed. Uncle Sam possesses a war ship of that name which can outfoot anything of the kind owned abroad. If it comes to a showdown the original Miss Columbia herself is not so slow.

"There are times when man wants to be alone." Popocratic orators in Nebraska object, however, to having it occur when they wish to make a campaign speech. A compulsory attendance law may be expected if the next legislature is popocratic.

The school board has taken action to reopen the night schools, which were so successfully conducted last year. For people who have been unable to secure an education and are now required to work during the day the night schools are a priceless boon.

Popocratic managers have not yet been able to figure out why Mr. Bryan left this debatable state in order to spend a week in Iowa, a state hopelessly republican, unless, perchance, it was for the purpose of outbidding President McKinley or talking to the people attracted by him.

THE POLICY OF DUTY.

These were strong and significant words that were uttered by President McKinley at Milwaukee when he said: "The greatest policy in this world for men or nations is duty and whenever that calls we should follow." No fair-minded man can doubt that the president is animated by a profound sense of duty, that what he has done and is doing he conscientiously believes the imperative requirement of his constitutional obligations. On another occasion Mr. McKinley said that "the sovereignty of the United States in the Philippines cannot be given away by a president," yet there are some who evidently think it can be and who berate the president because he does not give it away. There has rarely been in our history anything more unfair and unreasonable than the assaults made upon the president which affirm or imply that he has acted in disregard of duty, and the people who are doing this, can be no doubt, would be equally zealous in denouncing the president had he taken a different course.

The sovereignty of the Philippines, said Mr. McKinley, belongs to the people and the president of the United States has but one duty to perform and that is to maintain and establish the authority of the United States in those islands. "He could not do less and perform his duty." Whoever will give this fair and candid consideration must approve it. The president is acting for the people, as required by the representatives of the people in congress. He is proceeding strictly within the limits of his constitutional authority and the duty devolved upon him by congress. When congress ratified the treaty of peace it accepted, for the American people, the sovereignty of the Philippines ceded by Spain, and whatever may be thought of the wisdom of this action it unquestionably imposed upon the president the duty, as imperative as any devolved upon him by his oath to faithfully execute the laws, of maintaining that sovereignty. The whole matter was determined by congress and let it not be forgotten that some of those who now decry and denounce the president because he is faithfully performing his duty were in a large measure responsible for the war with Spain. They persistently endeavored to plunge the country into hostilities while the president was employing all the resources of diplomacy to obtain justice for Cuba without recourse to war. It required all the influence of the administration to defeat the efforts of popocratic jingoes to precipitate war in the midst of diplomatic negotiations and when the country was utterly unprepared for war.

It is obviously to no purpose now to urge that a different policy should have been adopted in respect to the Philippines. What we are now called upon to do is to deal with the actual conditions that exist there and the president, as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, is simply performing the duty required of him by the action of the people's representatives. He cannot give away the sovereignty of the Philippines accepted by congress. He cannot alter a single condition or relinquish a single responsibility created by the treaty of peace with Spain. From the moment that treaty was ratified it became as binding upon the executive as any other act of congress and he has given it no construction not authorized by its terms. As upon congress rests the responsibility for having accepted sovereignty in the Philippines, so with congress is the duty of determining what shall be the future policy regarding those islands. Pending that decision the president must continue to assert American sovereignty there and do his utmost to maintain it.

A FLAGRANT ABUSE.

One of the most flagrant abuses to which communities and private individuals are subjected in this state is the use of obscure and needless papers for the publication of official legal notices that should by rights be given the widest publicity. It is common practice for county judges to order the publication of notices of the settlement of estates and directly affecting widows and orphans in papers that have not a handful of bona fide subscribers, when it is manifestly the duty of probate judges to have such orders published in newspapers of general circulation. It is the practice of sheriffs and master commissioners to publish notices of foreclosures of mortgages and chattel sales in papers that have not a single paid subscriber and the victims of this malpractice have no redress for the willful sacrifice of their interests in property sold under the hammer where there are no bidders because of the lack of proper publicity. And yet the courts wink and blink at this shameful abuse of public trust, while many lawyers are reputed to charge up to their clients the full legal rates for advertising in readerless papers that give them a rake-off.

A striking illustration of this abuse has just come to our notice. Among several columns of notices of foreclosure sales, divorce notices and sheriff's sales that appeared in the last issue of the Omaha Labor Bulletin is a notice of an election to vote bonds for a proposed street railway in the village of Benson, one of the suburbs of Omaha. This notice is addressed to the voters of the village as a pretended compliance with the law. After a thorough canvass it appears that only three copies of the Labor Bulletin, so-called, could be found with a searchlight in the town of Benson, which boasts nearly 100 voters. It would be safe to carry dollars to doughnuts that not one solitary person in the village of Benson, except alone the village clerk and possibly some of the promoters of this bond grab, have ever seen the bond election notice. And yet the tax-paying voters of the village of Benson are presumed to have received fair warning that a mortgage is about to be plastered upon their town which they are expected to redeem, principal and interest, by special taxation upon their property.

The flimsy excuse given for this sham

publication is that publication in the Bulletin is cheaper than in a paper of general circulation. When it is remembered that this special election is advertised to take place on Thursday, November 2, between 8 a. m. and 6 p. m., while the general election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, the true object of the cheap publication becomes manifest.

Why was a special election called five days ahead of the general election? Evidently because the promoters of the little motor job did not dare risk the full vote usually polled at general elections. Why was the notice of election inserted in a sheet that does not circulate in the village? Evidently to keep the people in the dark.

It goes without saying that such flagrant abuses could not be practiced upon the people if all publications of legal notices involving taxation and mortgage foreclosures were required to be given the widest publication through papers of established general circulation.

BRITAIN IN KENTUCKY.

Colonel Bryan's invasion of the Blue Grass state in response to the cry of distress of the Goebel managers, who have contracted to deliver to him the Kentucky delegation in the next national democratic convention, discloses the fear of the democrats that the break in the solid south at the last presidential election may be repeated and enlarged in the election of 1900. Bryan's inaugural speech, in which he says that it depends somewhat on what Kentucky does this year whether the next president of the United States is a democrat, emphasizes this point. To insure Kentucky in the democratic column the infamous Goebel law was passed for the purpose of placing the election machinery in the hands of unscrupulous partisans who could be relied on to take every advantage offered to count in democratic candidates irrespective of how the ballots are cast.

To meet this political exigency Colonel Bryan, always an opportunist, finds it expedient to go to the rescue of the author of this notorious law now at the head of the democratic state ticket, and to ally himself in Kentucky with men opposed to a free ballot and an honest count, which in the northern states he pretends to champion in the name of liberty and independence. The alliance made by Colonel Bryan in Kentucky should be as revolting to democrats and populists of the north and west as his compact with Croker of the Tammany gang in New York, who are willing to deliver the support of the Empire state in the nominating convention to anyone who will bargain to them the sole control of the spoils and patronage allotted to that commonwealth.

Whether the democrats of Kentucky will appreciate Mr. Bryan's tender of advice, which they know is prompted by selfish motives in the interest of his own presidential aspirations, remains to be seen. The contest in Kentucky is being vigorously waged by the republicans and by the democrats who refuse to submit to Tammany methods. Although the state is naturally democratic the best advice is to the effect that the fight will be close to the very end.

THE GOLD BASIS PERMANENT.

Among the significant utterances of President McKinley during his western tour one made at the little town of Ackley, Ia., deserves more than passing notice. In the course of his remarks emphasizing the wonderful change which had taken place in the industrial condition of the country since his advent to the presidency, he said: "We are on a gold basis and we mean to stay there."

According to the report sent out by the Associated Press this sentiment was met with a general cry of "good." The same cry should be re-echoed throughout the whole length and breadth of the land. Whatever question there may have been in the minds of sound money men in 1896 as to the possibility of establishing a double standard by international agreement, the unsuccessful effort of President McKinley to secure the co-operation of other governments and the incontrovertible logic of events that has made the gold standard the symbol of our return to national and individual prosperity.

The progress which the country has made on the money question is well exemplified by the money plank of the state platform promulgated by Nebraska republicans this year. Not content with simply reaffirming the St. Louis platform the party goes on to say: "We adhere unequivocally to the gold standard and are unalterably opposed to the free coinage of silver. Gold has been our standard since 1834 and is now the standard of every civilized and important country in the world. After more than twenty years of harmful agitation and a campaign of extraordinary earnestness and full discussion the people of the United States by a majority of more than 500,000 decided in favor of that standard. Our experience and present prosperity demonstrate the wisdom of that decision. President McKinley's assurance that we are on a gold basis and we mean to stay there shows that on the money question Nebraska republicans are strictly in line with the position of the chief executive and that they make no mistake in joining issue squarely with those who still clamor for the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. All the pessimistic predictions made by the Bryanites in 1896 depicting the calamities that were to occur should the gold standard be maintained have been completely disappointed. We are not only on a gold basis, but we are also enjoying a period of prosperity unequalled in the history of the country, and if staying on a gold basis means the perpetuation of prosperous conditions, no people as intelligent as the people of the United States will vote for a change calling for a hazardous experiment sure to set the country back further than it was in 1896."

Why Scaplers Thrive.

Instead of crying out against the scaplers, who are an effect, not a cause, Mr. Rowwell Miller of the St. Paul road puts the rate-cutting case plainly. Says he: "The small, weak line cannot starve or go out of business and the way it protects itself is to cut tariffs." In other words, the scapler is merely the agent of the railroad, without whose co-operation he could do nothing. This is the truth of it. There is room for difference of opinion, however, respecting Mr. Miller's remedy for rate-cutting. He would legalize pooling, which is a scheme to protect the railroad against competition. It is desirable to extend competition between railroads, thus forming, in effect, the biggest trust of the whole trust family.

BRITON AND BOER.

Philadelphia North American: In the long run it will doubtless be to the advantage of mankind to have English substituted for Boer civilization, but neither progress nor good morals can be helped by the revolting cant with which the British seek to disguise their sinister purpose. And the Boers, though destined to vanish, are entitled to every particle of sympathy which the sound sentiment of the world accords them.

Springfield Republican: There are, indeed, "breakers ahead." No nation can have England's past and occupy her present position without being hated. Every race, or state, that she may have trampled upon, every nation that is envious of her power and wishes to occupy her place, will welcome the opportunity to help drag her down. Not even her subject peoples love her. All this is human nature. It cannot be otherwise while empires are built upon force.

Washington Post: There is much talk here of the expansion of England, yet we had understood, between England and the United States. We do not believe and have never believed that any such compact could be possible. But we know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the sentiment of the American people is against England in this enterprise, and we predict the defeat and humiliation of any government that shall be even suspected of an entanglement so odious and so base. The sympathy of the whole civilized world is with the Boers in this affair. Possibly the active encouragement and aid which follow sympathy may reveal themselves in time.

New York Post: Mr. Froude was in a lecture which he delivered in Edinburgh in 1889 he told some very unpleasant truths about the way the English had wronged the Dutch in South Africa. In particular did he dilate upon the manner in which Kimberley, with its diamond mines, became a British possession. The reason, in his brief, "No state but England could be allowed to possess the finest diamond mine in the world." Great Britain had abandoned the Orange River territory because it was thought useless. By the treaty of Alwal, signed with the Dutch in 1869, England pledged herself to interfere farthest north of the Orange river. But the link was scarcely dry on this document when the Kimberley mines were discovered, and that altered the case entirely. The diamonds stirred the consciences of the English authorities. They found that the Kimberley region really belonged to a British chief, not at all to the Dutch, and they proceeded to take it away from the Free State in order to hand it carefully back to its rightful owner, the lawless native chief. But, unfortunately, he could not be found when the time came, and, therefore, England was compelled to annex the diamonds, and the Orange River territory. It was said Mr. Froude, "one of the most scandalous acts recorded in our history. In modern European history no treaty has ever been broken with more deliberate shamelessness than the treaty of Alwal was broken by us in 1870."

Chaplain Mailley's record in the campaign above Manila was reported by popocratic organs and by the popocratic-blower plate makers to have been in all respects creditable, if not brilliant. Had the chaplain, upon his return home, been willing to smother his honest convictions his virtues would have been extolled to this day by the fusion press, which is just now engaged in bespattering the chaplain with campaign mud.

The recovery of stolen goods upon promise not to prosecute for their theft is nothing out of the ordinary. Read the last columns of almost any daily newspaper and you will find advertisements offering rewards for the return of property with the extra inducement "no questions asked."

Iowa democratic papers are discussing what effect the election of Fred White as governor of the state would have. The space could be used to far better advantage, as the chances of his election are about as remote as the formation of ice in the equatorial hereafter.

Republicans should realize the importance of being registered this year as republicans. The primary election law passed by the last legislature provides that only those who register as republicans can vote at republican primaries.

McKinley's Tip to Dewey.

Brooklyn Eagle: McKinley gave to Admiral Dewey a good hint when he said: "Shake hands with them; don't let them shake hands with them; that distributes the fact of their defeat, and you can't do it all together." Those of us on the high road to the presidency or to admiralships will do well to bear this in mind.

No Prosperity for "Coin."

Portland Oregonian: Strenuous effort by "Coin" Harvey in the state of Nebraska has resulted in contributions to the silver cause of \$2,658.50. This is not a tenth of the sum he expected to gather up in that state in an all-out campaign. "Coin" talks seriously about the lack of prosperity in Nebraska. It does not occur to him that there may be a lack of interest in base money.

Shun Diamonds, Buy Coal.

Minneapolis Journal: One of the early effects of the South African war is an advance in the price of diamonds. Diamonds have been rising ever since the trouble between England and the Boers began, and you can see it all together. Those of us on the high road to the presidency or to admiralships will do well to bear this in mind.

Barometer of Business.

Philadelphia Press: There is no better index of the business condition of the nation than its retail receipts. For the quarter ending September 30, last, 146,956,465 more stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards were sold than during the corresponding quarter of 1898 and the receipts were \$2,741,439 greater.

Temporary Boundary in Alaska.

Philadelphia Ledger: The latest statement of the Alaskan boundary dispute is that a provisional line has been agreed upon pending the final settlement of the contention. The "temporary" line, it is understood, concedes territory to Canada which was previously ours, and this surrender is made while the extreme apostles of "expansion" are raving up and down the land vociferously declaiming against the lowering of the flag upon any territory where it has ever been planted, and brandishing any proposition of that sort as treason. The flag has been hauled down in Alaska and withdrawn from territory held by us ever since its purchase from Russia by an unauthorized title.

PHILADELPHIA NORTH AMERICAN.

Philadelphia North American: In the long run it will doubtless be to the advantage of mankind to have English substituted for Boer civilization, but neither progress nor good morals can be helped by the revolting cant with which the British seek to disguise their sinister purpose. And the Boers, though destined to vanish, are entitled to every particle of sympathy which the sound sentiment of the world accords them.

Springfield Republican: There are, indeed, "breakers ahead." No nation can have England's past and occupy her present position without being hated. Every race, or state, that she may have trampled upon, every nation that is envious of her power and wishes to occupy her place, will welcome the opportunity to help drag her down. Not even her subject peoples love her. All this is human nature. It cannot be otherwise while empires are built upon force.

Washington Post: There is much talk here of the expansion of England, yet we had understood, between England and the United States. We do not believe and have never believed that any such compact could be possible. But we know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the sentiment of the American people is against England in this enterprise, and we predict the defeat and humiliation of any government that shall be even suspected of an entanglement so odious and so base. The sympathy of the whole civilized world is with the Boers in this affair. Possibly the active encouragement and aid which follow sympathy may reveal themselves in time.

New York Post: Mr. Froude was in a lecture which he delivered in Edinburgh in 1889 he told some very unpleasant truths about the way the English had wronged the Dutch in South Africa. In particular did he dilate upon the manner in which Kimberley, with its diamond mines, became a British possession. The reason, in his brief, "No state but England could be allowed to possess the finest diamond mine in the world." Great Britain had abandoned the Orange River territory because it was thought useless. By the treaty of Alwal, signed with the Dutch in 1869, England pledged herself to interfere farthest north of the Orange river. But the link was scarcely dry on this document when the Kimberley mines were discovered, and that altered the case entirely. The diamonds stirred the consciences of the English authorities. They found that the Kimberley region really belonged to a British chief, not at all to the Dutch, and they proceeded to take it away from the Free State in order to hand it carefully back to its rightful owner, the lawless native chief. But, unfortunately, he could not be found when the time came, and, therefore, England was compelled to annex the diamonds, and the Orange River territory. It was said Mr. Froude, "one of the most scandalous acts recorded in our history. In modern European history no treaty has ever been broken with more deliberate shamelessness than the treaty of Alwal was broken by us in 1870."

Chaplain Mailley's record in the campaign above Manila was reported by popocratic organs and by the popocratic-blower plate makers to have been in all respects creditable, if not brilliant. Had the chaplain, upon his return home, been willing to smother his honest convictions his virtues would have been extolled to this day by the fusion press, which is just now engaged in bespattering the chaplain with campaign mud.

The recovery of stolen goods upon promise not to prosecute for their theft is nothing out of the ordinary. Read the last columns of almost any daily newspaper and you will find advertisements offering rewards for the return of property with the extra inducement "no questions asked."

Iowa democratic papers are discussing what effect the election of Fred White as governor of the state would have. The space could be used to far better advantage, as the chances of his election are about as remote as the formation of ice in the equatorial hereafter.

Republicans should realize the importance of being registered this year as republicans. The primary election law passed by the last legislature provides that only those who register as republicans can vote at republican primaries.

McKinley's Tip to Dewey.

Brooklyn Eagle: McKinley gave to Admiral Dewey a good hint when he said: "Shake hands with them; don't let them shake hands with them; that distributes the fact of their defeat, and you can't do it all together." Those of us on the high road to the presidency or to admiralships will do well to bear this in mind.

No Prosperity for "Coin."

Portland Oregonian: Strenuous effort by "Coin" Harvey in the state of Nebraska has resulted in contributions to the silver cause of \$2,658.50. This is not a tenth of the sum he expected to gather up in that state in an all-out campaign. "Coin" talks seriously about the lack of prosperity in Nebraska. It does not occur to him that there may be a lack of interest in base money.

Shun Diamonds, Buy Coal.

Minneapolis Journal: One of the early effects of the South African war is an advance in the price of diamonds. Diamonds have been rising ever since the trouble between England and the Boers began, and you can see it all together. Those of us on the high road to the presidency or to admiralships will do well to bear this in mind.

Barometer of Business.

Philadelphia Press: There is no better index of the business condition of the nation than its retail receipts. For the quarter ending September 30, last, 146,956,465 more stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards were sold than during the corresponding quarter of 1898 and the receipts were \$2,741,439 greater.

Temporary Boundary in Alaska.

Philadelphia Ledger: The latest statement of the Alaskan boundary dispute is that a provisional line has been agreed upon pending the final settlement of the contention. The "temporary" line, it is understood, concedes territory to Canada which was previously ours, and this surrender is made while the extreme apostles of "expansion" are raving up and down the land vociferously declaiming against the lowering of the flag upon any territory where it has ever been planted, and brandishing any proposition of that sort as treason. The flag has been hauled down in Alaska and withdrawn from territory held by us ever since its purchase from Russia by an unauthorized title.

ECHOES OF THE WAR.

Several shades of civilization, long companions of the real thing, are making progress in the Philippines. Late papers from Manila furnish glowing evidence of the influence of environment on the natives. Examples also add a moderate swath in popularizing Yankee notions. Two dusky natives, inspired by an exhibition of the "Gandy art," mounted the local stage, and had a four-round bout before a large crowd. The reporters failed to give the customary details of the "go," their only comment being that the natives were not well up in the tactics of the ring, but were surprisingly stiff on their feet. "Surprised" is good, considering their training as aspirants in the field. Another native went up against John Barleycorn for one round and accumulated sufficient experience to last his relative for a lifetime. Somehow or somewhere he secured three bottles of Scotch whiskey, which he put under his belt within four hours. From that moment he knew not what hit him. The next day his name was called out in court, but he heard not. He was dead—a martyr to an overdose of civilization.

Recruiting for the twenty-five volunteer regiments is practically completed, excepting the Forty-ninth (colored), which is a few hundred short. A total of about 35,000 men have been enlisted during the past three months. The personnel of the volunteer regiments is considered excellent, and by some officers is pronounced superior to that of the regular army. A thorough examination of all recruits has been made, the unfit have been weeded out, and the men who will start for the front are all of good character and of exceptionally strong physique.

Admiral Watson will soon have at Manila and vicinity the largest fleet of American war ships ever assigned to one station. Under the Brooklyn, Newark, New Orleans, Nashville, Marietta and Badger at Manila, he will have at his disposal at least fifty fighting ships. The list includes, besides those mentioned, the Oregon, Baltimore, Concord, Bennington, Helena, Carolina, Petrel, Francesco, Yorktown, Wheeling, three of the Spanish cruisers, thirteen small craft bought in Asiatic waters, and, last of all, the heavy monitors, Monterey and Monadnock.

The retirement of Admiral Henry L. Howison advances Rear Admiral W. T. Sampson to the foot of the senior rear admiral list. It will, however, materially increase his seniority. Rear Admiral Sampson, working at sea he received \$5,500. On shore duty he would receive only \$4,675. When he assumes command of the Boston navy yard he will draw a salary of \$8,375, and will have the use of the commodant's house, which will make his yearly income from the government equal to if not greater than sea pay in his new grade, which would be \$7,500. The retirement of Admiral Howison also advances Admiral Schley one number, and makes him the eighth officer in the navy.

General Henry W. Lawton has been trying to correct in an interview with a correspondent in Manila some of the misstatements in a sketch of his life printed in this country some weeks ago. For example: "His intimates will back him to drink any man under the table." The general says: "I never drank a drop of liquor, as my intimates very well know." Again, he sketches: "When he feels like it, he works forty-eight hours on a stretch." The general responds: "I never do feel like it."

TRANSVAAL FRONTIERS.

Six points along the frontiers of the South African Republic and Orange Free State are of special interest, because they are the centers where the Boers are massing their forces or because they are strategic positions where the British may advance into the territory of their enemy with the least likelihood of difficulty. The chief center of activity at present is near the apex of the acute northern angle of Natal where it pushes its mountain-walled tongue of land up into the plateau on which the South African Republic is situated. Nearly all the Boer towns on the plateau around the game way and the Natal towns on the plain to the south and along the railroad leading up through the valley to the plateau are mentioned in the dispatches.

The Boer towns are the most important in a region, partly of farms on the plateau and of mountains in the little strip where the Transvaal frontier includes some high hills. Most of these Boer hamlets have sprung up since the railroad from Durban to Pretoria was built and the most important among them is the administrative town of the district, Wakkerstroom, some miles to the east of the railroad, where the Boers are said to have mounted a big gun to defend the place, with its "cannon" in the hands of a few stores and churches and a hundred or so houses, against attack. Volksrust, right on the railroad, where no one camped the first large force the Boers sent to the frontier, is a railroad station and a small town, which is on the road about twenty miles to the northwest, and the Boer camps are now scattered along between this place and Volksrust. This last named place is right on the frontier and is in the case with Charlertown on the other side of the border, and their chief importance comes from the fact that they are places where the customs are collected by the respective governments.

Newcastle, about twenty-five miles south from Wakkerstroom, is the headquarters of Sir George White, who has about 12,000 British troops in that neighborhood to oppose any attempt of the Boers to advance on Durban. It is a town of considerable importance, with hotels, banks and newspapers. Almost all the Newcastle in the world are centers of the coal trade, and this is the case with Natal's Newcastle, for all around it is the carboniferous district of the colony, about 1,100 square miles in extent, with some seams over ten feet thick. It is estimated that 2,000,000,000 tons of good coal are stored up in these hills for future use. There are about 1,000 Europeans in Newcastle. Between it and Charlertown are the battlefields that proved so fatal to the British in the war of 1880-81, at Ingogo, Majuba hill and Laine's Nek, as the British are now spelling the name, though Gweswell and other authorities write it as it Lang Nek. The British forces there are now rendezvousing at Newcastle, Dundee and Ladysmith, all on the line of the railroad. Dundee is the nearest of these towns to Zululand and 6,000 soldiers are stationed there to guard against the Boer invasion of Natal from that district of Zululand, which became a part of the South African republic a few years ago. Dundee is a small mining town and a flourishing coal mining center. Ladysmith, on the other hand, is a bustling commercial town, the center of trade for all that northern part of Natal and the junction

where the railroad from Durban to Pretoria meets the line that runs northwest to Harpersburg and Bethlehem in the Orange Free State. This trade route leads on from Ladysmith through the two passes over the Drakenberg mountains leading in one direction into the Orange Free State and in the other into the Transvaal.

The town has about 3,000 inhabitants, most of whom are Europeans. There is a strong British garrison at Ladysmith and it is daily being reinforced. Thus we see at this main point of interest, on the one hand, a few Boer hamlets where the largest force of Boers has been massed, ready to defend the plateau or to invade Natal; and on the other, a few Natal settlements, only one of which is of considerable size, where British troops are waiting to repel a hostile advance.

The next gathering point of Boer troops to the west is at and near Harpersmith in the Orange Free State, where a force of the troops of that republic is on guard to prevent British invasion through the pass along the line of railroad between Ladysmith and Harpersmith. This is known as Van Renen's pass, and Harpersmith, which was named after Sir Harry Smith, a former English governor of the cape, is a thriving town and a center of trade between Durban and the Orange Free State.

The British can win their way into the Boer republics through these two passes, it is believed, only by hard fighting and the cost of many lives. It is reported that on that account they will attempt only the defense of these passes against any effort the Boers may make to pass through them and invade Natal; and that the British will seek an entrance into the South African Republic from the west, striking across the border from Vryburg or Mafeking, and making for Klerksdorp, which is the terminus of a railroad line running east to Pretoria. Klerksdorp is a bustling town close to the Vaal river and about 3,000 Europeans live there. It is one of the gold mining centers of the Transvaal and is one of the main trade routes to the capital of the country. The purpose of the British would be to seize the railroad terminating there and use it, if possible, in their advance on the capital.

If the report is true that the Portuguese will permit the British to utilize the railroad from Delagoa bay for the invasion of the Transvaal, the Boers will have to guard another pass in the mountains, out they would probably be able to make it very difficult for their enemies to get through the rift in the Lebombo mountains by which the railroad gains the plateau and goes on its way to Pretoria. This rift is known as Komati pass and it is a narrow defile with a steep gradient.

LAUGHING GAS.

Indianapolis Journal: "Pete Johnson got a new job." "What's he doing?" "Staring outside one of dese here department stores whar de customers kin lean dere backside on de hime." "Washington Star: "I dose have," said Uncle Eben, "fer see a growed-up man dat has been hollerin' hime f horse at a miasa wooda go home an' threaten to spank de children fob cryin'."

Cheneyville Journal: It doesn't cost any more to have a beautiful dream that you are rich and happy and admired than it does to have a nightmare. Why, my dear, set people continue to have nightmares.

Chicago Post: "My boy is strictly up-to-date." "What way?" "He called my attention yesterday to the fact that moral suasion had taken the place of brute force."

New York Press: Sunlight - "Yankee doodle" is an absurd song. Who on earth was Macaroni, anyway? Mrs. Sunlight: "Why, my dear, don't you know? He was the man that invented that wireless telegraph!"

Detroit Journal: "We are clothed with such political power as men desire, with intense bitterness." "Well, man-taloring is certainly swell!" ventured the other woman, who was prone to look at the bright side of things.

Washington Star: "What a beautiful lace curtain you have," exclaimed the Filipino lady. "That's not a lace curtain," answered the other. "That's just a piece of muslin. My dear, you shakin' it at the enemy so much trying to get them to come, within range that it has traveled out a bit."

IN LATE OCTOBER.

The cornleaves clash amidst the dried out corn. Like paper swords that children use in play. The wild geese call across the autumn sky as arrow-like they wing their southward way. In late October.

The stubblefields are as great squares of strawstacks dot them with their beaps of gold. While through the uplands prairie chickens cry. In trumpet tones foretelling snow and cold. In late October.

Across the prairies like a thing of life. The tumble-weed moves lazily and slow. And in the shivering breeze the goldenrod in lustering ages turns white as winter's snow. In late October.

The skies are overcast with low-hung clouds. The days are full of haunting old regrets. The winds swirl upward like a dancer's skirts. The dead leaves sound like castanets, as arrow-like they wing their southward way. In late October.

WILLIAM REED DUNROY. Omaha, October 15, 1899.