THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

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 November, 1899, was as follows:

1	25,340	16	29,230
2	32,910	17	25,450
3	25,190	18	25,550
4	26,310	19	25,770
5	25,600	20	25,340
6	25,431	21	25,400
7	31,340	22	25,420
8	31,370	23	25,170
9	25,450	24	25,010
10	25,410	25	25,180
11	36,490	26	27,190
12	25,650	27	25,090
13	25,252	28	25,120
14	29,535	29	24,970
15	25,550	30	25,000

Total 801,718
Less unsold and returned copies.... 11,322

Net total sales..... 790,396

Net daily average..... 26,346

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of December, A. D. 1899.
M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal.) Notary Public.

A Marvel of Excellence.

Minneapolis Times.

The Omaha Illustrated Bee is a weekly magazine published by The Bee company. The Christmas number is a marvel of typographical beauty and literary excellence. Every feature of an up-to-date magazine is embraced in its contents and its loyalty to Omaha and the west is evidenced by numerous special features handsomely illustrated.

Happy New Year to all.

Write it 1900 from today on.

The king is dead! Long live the king!

Comptroller Dawes is not afraid to handle the trust evils without kid gloves.

Dr. Ensor proposes to turn over a new leaf and allow himself to be nominated again for mayor of South Omaha.

Iowa's hardest political battle, we are told, is to be fought next week. In politics, as in war, the last battle is always the greatest battle.

Omaha's new federal building has settled nearly six inches. That is just what was predicted by The Bee when it was located near an old creek bed.

Omaha democrats are not distressing themselves over primary election reform or voting machines. Their machine works the same winter and summer.

The new year is ushered in with an open door to China and the new century may witness the opening of all the doors to all the other countries on the globe.

It may be safely set down as one of the predictions for the new year that Nebraska will not send a regiment of volunteers to Africa to fight either the British or the Boers.

The gold production of the whole United States for 1899 is computed at a fraction more than $70,000,000. The grain production of Nebraska for the year 1899 will exceed $75,000,000 in gold.

Most of the people debating for the Crawford county system in the coming republican primaries would like to have a guaranty that their candidates would be nominated. If not, they are agin' reform.

The glass trust has decided to reopen its factories, but the prices of glassware are not likely to recede for some time to come, as the prospectus tells us that production will be limited by the scarcity of blowers.

General Funston's heroic swim of the Bagbag has been once more revamped by an Associated Press dispatch from Minneapolis. The next time the story bobs up it will come from Zigzag and tell about dodging ice-cakes between strokes.

Oregon will soon be torn up by the woman suffrage question, which is to be voted on at its next election in the shape of a constitutional amendment. This will give another opportunity to the emotional members of both sexes to open their safety valves.

The Kansas congressman who achieved notoriety by snoring on the floor of the house has ended his life by the suicide route. This is certainly remarkable, as one would naturally suppose that those who had to listen to his snoring would be affected first.

The air line railroad from the gulf to the north pole projected some years ago has taken shape. The special state railway commissioner, general manager and superintendent of the Nebraska link of this great paper highway has held a conference with Governor Poynter concerning this colossal enterprise which may confidently be expected to be in full operation by A. D. 5000.

CHANGES OF A CENTURY.

It is said that when Xerxes was reviewing the mighty army with which he was to invade Greece, he wept at the thought that in one hundred years everyone in that immense throng would be dead. What wonderful changes even a century will bring to pass.

Contrast 1800 and 1900. Then our nation was small and weak; today it is mighty. Then slavery flourished; today universal liberty prevails. The armies of 1800 fought with flintlocks; today they kill with long-distance rifles. Then wooden warships secured the seas; now the mighty battleship, like a steel-clad floating fort, pushes its huge bulk through the waves at a rate of speed that would have amazed Admiral Nelson, and hurls huge projectiles that would have struck Commodore Perry dumb with wonder. How surprised Admiral Farragut would be could he inspect a modern submarine topedo boat. How Captain Hull would have exulted could he have lined the battered sides of the frigate Constitution with modern armor plates. How Napoleon's eyes would stick out could he return to earth and inspect a modern magazine gun. How happy Wellington would have been could he have armed his troops with Winchester repeating rifles, and what a grim smile would have illuminated the impassive features of General Grant could he have hurled into the rebel ranks a storm of explosive missiles propelled by smokeless powder.

One hundred years ago war was the only means of settling international disputes. Today arbitration almost universally prevails. The perfection with which engines of war are now constructed has demonstrated the fact that war must result in total annihilation of one or both armies engaged. Who can deny that this is one cause of the prevailing sentiment in favor of arbitration?

The fields of peace find still greater contrasts. Think how recently some of our commonest conveniences were introduced? How happy Washington would have been could he have lighted the fire at Mount Vernon with a modern safety match instead of the old-fashioned "flint and steel." How Jefferson would have rejoiced could he have glided to Washington in a palace car at the rate of sixty miles an hour, instead of traveling along in a lumbering stagecoach.

How Sir Walter Scott would have rattled off the Waverly novels could he have leaned back in an easy chair in his library at Abbotsford and have dictated them to a stenographer. John Adams never dreamed of a modern coal stove, and could Daniel Webster have heated his place at Marshfield with a hot air furnace he would have deemed it the height of comfort and luxury. Abraham Lincoln never saw an electric light nor imperilled his dignity by dodging the trolley car. He had his first inaugural address printed in order that he might read it. How much valuable time would have been saved could he have reeled off his official documents on the modern typewriter. Benjamin Franklin never saw a photograph. James A. Garfield never saw a pneumatic-tired bicycle or heard the jingle of electric bells in the White house. Alfred Tennyson never knew that a man's bones could be photographed through his flesh.

Turning to the moral realm we find equally great advancement. Had Alexander Hamilton lived today he would not have thrown away his life to satisfy a false idea of honor. A century ago drinking was a universal custom. Ministers were offended if not offered a glass of liquor while making pastoral calls. Today drinking is the exception. One hundred years ago a multitude of crimes were punishable by death; today murder alone is expiated by a human life.

Truly this has been a most wonderful century, but the end is not yet. The next one hundred years promises to disclose such marvels as will make our boasted discoveries seem insignificant.

FRANCHISES IN CUBA.

An effort will be made to induce congress to authorize the granting of franchises in Cuba, now forbidden by the action of the last congress. The effort will be directed from Cuba, as indicated in a circular signed by parties who style themselves "Cuban industrial commissioners," and will undoubtedly have some influential backing in this country from syndicates and speculators who desire an opportunity to exploit the island. The circular states that Cuba is suffering because in the absence of franchises capital cannot be invested and labor employed in those works which develop and enrich a country and urges that there is no place where the power to grant franchises "can be with greater safety entrusted than in the executive and the military arm of the United States."

We have heretofore referred to this matter, when it was first indicated that an organized effort would probably be made to secure the repeal of the Foraker amendment forbidding the granting of franchises in Cuba, urging that the entirely wise and proper position taken by the last congress should be adhered to. We have seen no reason since to change this view and indeed subsequent events have served to strengthen it. This government has no right to grant franchises in Cuba. We fully concur in what the Philadelphia North American says regarding the matter: "Cuba not being ours, we have no right to dispose of grants which would bind its owners for long terms of years, taking from their control corporations whose reason for existence is that they render public service in return for valuable privileges." Admit that Cuba would be benefited industrially and commercially by the granting of franchises, still it is no part of the duty of this government to promote this by taking out of the hands of the Cuban people, soon to establish an independent government, the privilege of exercising one of the most important powers of sovereignty. However fairly and honestly our government might be in granting franchises, it would yet be a usurpation of a power which belongs to the people of Cuba and could not be justified upon any pretext.

Governor General Wood has refused to allow municipalities to grant private contracts until they have been elected and the will of the people thus made known. The wisdom of this action is unquestionable and the principle applies to the question of granting franchises by this government. When Cuba has an independent government one of its most important and valuable rights will be that of granting franchises and the United States government should do nothing that will interfere with its full exercise. The syndicates and speculators that are eager to exploit Cuba can wait. We are quite confident that their efforts to secure the favor of congress will be unavailing.

THE BRITISH YEOMANRY.

The organization of the yeomanry of England for service in South Africa is an incident of the present conflict which strongly emphasizes the loyalty of the people to the government and the stern determination to sustain British prestige and power. The men who are thus offering themselves for military service constitute, in respect to their condition in life, a most respectable element of the population. The yeomanry consists largely of farmers and each man provides his horse, for this is to be a mounted force. The patriotic impulse of these people has drawn many to their ranks who do not belong to their class and it has also roused some of the nobility to a sense of their duty to the country. The movement for organizing the yeomanry was started by Lord Chesham and many other noblemen are now taking part in it, prominent among them being the duke of Marlborough. That young man, in whom Americans may be supposed to take some little interest, should have good fighting blood in him and if so he will find abundant opportunity in South Africa to show it.

How effective this force of yeomanry will be in fighting the Boers it is impossible to say, but imbued as these volunteers manifestly are with a high sense of patriotic duty it is to be expected that they will make a most creditable record in war. There will not be lacking the strongest incentive as well as the amplest opportunity for heroic deeds. In their distinctive character they can feel that the eyes of England are upon them and that whatever they do will not fail to obtain merited recognition. At all events, they are setting a most commendable example to their countrymen and are doing their part to assure the world that the Englishmen of today are not less loyal and patriotic than their ancestors. Many of them may never return, but their devotion to their country will not be forgotten. The organization of the British yeomanry for service in South Africa is one of the impressive incidents of the deplorable conflict.

BRYANT'S COMMENDABLE EXAMPLE.

The report of Wilbur F. Bryant, late commissioner of insurance for the period covered by his incumbency of the office emphasizes the imperative necessity for a revision of the insurance laws of Nebraska along the lines of the act just declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. This does not necessarily imply that the supervision of insurance companies can not be efficiently carried on by the state auditor, but that the methods heretofore employed have not met the demand either of the policyholders or the companies.

While Mr. Bryant was from the outset handicapped by the controversy over his right to exercise the functions of insurance commissioner, he has indicated what can be done to correct abuses and introduce reforms into that department. Had he been confirmed in his position there is no doubt the state would have been materially benefited by his administration and the general public enjoyed better protection against insurance imposture than can be possible under the old law.

In accepting the decision of the court as final, without resorting to the usual dilatory tactics and demands for rehearing, Mr. Bryant has set an example to his party which its representatives in office would do well to emulate.

Like the "Eternal Hills."

Globe-Democrat.

The industries of the country are as solid as a rock and too busy to give any attention to speculative ripples and eddies.

Another Century Rub.

Louisville Courier Journal.

Those people who are insisting that there are only ninety-nine years in a century would slap a man in jail if he attempted to pass off on them ninety-nine cents as a dollar.

Doesn't Live Up to His Name.

Chicago Times-Herald.

They call Emperor William the war lord, but Germany is almost the only country of any consequence that hasn't been mixed up in an ugly war of some kind for almost thirty years.

Value of the Home Pull.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The formation of an American Panama canal company, in order that American influence might be brought to bear on the concessionaires who are still proving difficult, is something of a tribute to American influence, though in these days it is scarcely more than the straw that flies with the wind.

Solemn Congressional Humor.

St. Louis Republic.

The humor and joking which congressmen inject into debates on serious subjects remind one of the jokes brought to the editor by the sleazy, sadfaced man who said: "I wish you would pick out any of these jokes you can use. I was working on them all night and I need the money to bury my poor wife."

How to Make War a Blessing.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

It is hardly necessary to explain that the great number of pension applications by soldiers of the Spanish war is due to the activity of the pension attorneys. One way to make wars a blessing would be by international agreement requiring that they be fought out by pension attorneys and blatherskite politicians who bring on war.

Cost of a Colonial System.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

Germany's profits from her colonies in 1898 were something prodigiously painful. The bookkeeping amounted to this: Total imports and exports between colonies and Germany, $3,591,500; government subsidies to assist colonies and protectorates, $3,697,000; loss, $105,500. And in these figures are not included the expenses at Samoa nor $300,000 paid to steamship companies nor expenditures for distant naval stations, post routes and telegraph service.

Invention Outrunning Nature.

Philadelphia Press.

Science and invention are moving at too swift a pace for nature. It has only been in comparatively recent years, less than a generation, that the use of wood pulp came into general use in the manufacture of paper. But the rapid and increased demand for newspapers is exhausting the supplies of wood necessary for its production, and now the inventive genius of man is being taxed to find a substitute for the wood which took the place of rags and other materials in paper manufacture but a few years ago.

American Coal Abroad.

Boston Globe.

It will surprise many people to know that American coal is already being shipped to Italy. Although our shipments of "black diamonds" abroad form at present but a comparatively small amounts—less than 4,000,000 tons last year, of a total output of 100,000,000 "long tons"—there is prospect of a speedy increase in our coal exports in the near future.

According to statistics which are said to be reliable the United States is producing more than a fourth of the coal output of the entire world and at the lowest cost per ton reached in any country. On the other hand, the cost of coal production in the old world steadily increases because of the difficulties attending mining at the great depth to which it is now necessary to resort.

Postal Savings Banks.

Chicago Record.

The American Federation of Labor at its Detroit convention reaffirmed the declarations of the two preceding annual conventions in favor of postal savings banks. In so doing the convention gave expression to the sentiment of the entire body of intelligent workingmen of the country, both organized and unorganized. This demand for safe depositories for small savings is not new, but its frequent iteration indicates the strength of the popular desire for the establishment of the postal savings system.

When will the united voice of labor, which in this instance speaks also the sentiment of the agricultural communities and of persons of moderate incomes, be heeded by congress? Here is a chance for the government at Washington to do something for the people that will be appreciated in every section of the country.

MISSOURI VALLEY SHIPPERS.

Necessity For and Advantages of a Strong Organization.

Kansas City Star.

The Missouri River Shippers' association, which was organized in Kansas City Wednesday by representative merchants of Omaha, St. Joseph, Atchison and Kansas City, promises to be an effective means for accomplishing much good for the commercial interests of the west in their relations to the railroads. The importance of this organization was clearly stated by Mr. W. S. Dickey yesterday when he said: "There is not a chain of cities in the country where the shipping interests are so identical as those of the towns included in this association."

These Missouri river cities have an aggregate population of close to 500,000 people, and they are the distributing centers for a population of more than 5,000,000 people, living in the section of the country which is destined to make a greater growth in the next ten years than any other part of the country. These cities have practically the same freight rates from the east and from the west. They labor under like disadvantages and have to contend with the same railroad discrimination. Their interests in this regard are identical. There are, of course, some matters in which they cannot act together, and they overlap one another's fields of trade and compete keenly with one another for business. But in many important regards they are able to act together in working for equitable and fair treatment from the railroads, just as competing merchants and manufacturers in Kansas City are able to do.

Working together, they can have much more influence than each city by itself can have. The particular purpose which brought about their organization for united effort is to fight the new classifications of freight which the railroads have adopted. These have the effect of advancing freight charges on many commodities and of handicapping the jobbers and wholesalers who accumulate large stocks of goods for the convenience of the retail merchants all over the west. But there are other matters in which the Missouri river cities are mutually concerned.

If the members of this association can keep down petty jealousies and pull together aggressively for the objects in which all of them are interested, the organization will accomplish much good.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Don Cameron, once such a commanding figure in Pennsylvania politics, is now, he says, "out of public life and accordingly enjoying myself."

C. P. Huntington is now the only survivor of the great "Southern Pacific quartet," composed of Stanford, Crocker, Hopkins and himself, and he now owns three-fourths of the stock of the road.

The name of Samuel Smiles has been so long forgotten by the reading public that many will probably be surprised to learn that the author of "Self Help" is still alive. He lives in London.

In 1883 three now famous men were at the University of Strasburg—Roentgen, Paderewski and Tesla. Then Roentgen was a professor of physics, Paderewski was an instructor in music and Tesla was installing the electric light plant at the university.

There is a new income tax law in South Carolina this year affecting all incomes over $2,500, but as the collections in only two counties exceed $1,000, there can't be much difference between the classes and the masses in that state.

S. S. McClure, the publisher, told the Nineteenth Century club in New York the other day that the best literature of the past fifteen years had been printed in daily newspapers. They introduced Kipling, Stevenson, Hardy, Doyle, Meredith, Barrie and Weyman.

At a dinner in New York recently someone jokingly commented on prohibition in Maine. Ex-Speaker Reed, whose turn came later, defended his old home against the "mistaken view of the result of prohibition there." He said it had resulted in Maine men losing all taste for liquor. This was met with howls of derision and sarcastic laughter, but Mr. Reed never cracked a smile. He said the popular mistake was due to the fact that whenever a New Yorker went to Maine the hospitable people of that state broke the rule and gave him drink only to save his life.

The officers of the National City bank of New York, which Secretary Gage has made the depository of the $1,000,000 a day internal revenue receipts, are credited with the ambition of making it as large and powerful as the Bank of England. It has recently bought the old custom house and site in Wall street from the government, and if it should use the old building for a banking house, its mightiness would be well exemplified in an architectural way. Its deposits amount to over $100,000,000, or about one-seventh of the aggregate deposits of all the sixty-five clearing house institutions put together.

VOICE OF THE STATE PRESS.

Beaver City Tribune: When Judge Cunningham R. Scott of Omaha retires from the district bench, as he will next week, there will be no one able to sit in his place. There is not a jurist in Nebraska small enough to crowd into it.

Holdrege Citizen (rep.): The supreme court has decided that the State Board of Transportation has power to regulate express rates. If the board has power to regulate express rates it certainly ought to have power to regulate freight rates. It remains to be seen how much regulating will be done. The people of Nebraska would like to see something actually attempted besides making a grandstand play. The populist orators have for a long time told how anxious they were to help the people of Nebraska out of the dominion of corporation bondage. When is the delivery to be attempted?

Norfolk News: The Omaha Bee is affording an opportunity for the mayors of the various cities throughout the state to express the needs of their towns in the way of new enterprises and to tell what opportunities are offered for the investment of capital. A large majority of the mayors think their towns especially capable of handling a beet sugar factory and there is no question in their minds but that the raw material could be readily procured. The beet sugar industry is undoubtedly one of the most popular enterprises of the state and fortunately Norfolk is the location of one of these valued institutions.

Kearney Hub (rep.): There appears to be abundant reason why Prof. Andrews, superintendent of the Chicago schools, who has been discussed as a possibility for the chancellorship of the Nebraska university, should be considered entirely out of the question. The manner of his withdrawal from Brown university and the imbroglio in which he has involved the Chicago Board of Education indicate that he is a troublesome number wherever he may be. The complaint that comes from Chicago is that he attempts to exercise all the prerogatives that are supposed to be properly distributed between himself and the Board of Education, and the protest against this one-man power should be sufficient warning to Nebraska to let him quite severely alone.

Hastings Record (rep.): The State Board of Transportation has finally been goaded to do something and has submitted a lot of freight bills to the attorney general with a hope of procuring a breathing spell from the attacks being made upon it by fusion papers. The trouble seems to be about the railroads charging freight rates on an old carload schedule in violation of one of the board's modern rules. The whole matter is a bluff. The penalty for violating the Transportation Board's order is from $500 to $1,000 in each and every offense, and the budget of freight receipts representing the violations would make a fair sized lounging cushion and break all the roads in the state to comply with the request. But it is up to the attorney general now, and the three lazy members of the board will stretch and yawn till spring, when they will organize a little junketing party and fish for brook trout in the mountains.

Papillion Times (dem.): Now that the supreme court has widened the powers of the board we hope and believe the secretaries will promptly give the people of the state relief from the robbing practices of the public corporations. We say we believe the secretaries will act, and we base that belief upon the statement of Secretary Dahlman, who long ago informed us that he would do something to redeem democratic campaign pledges just as soon as the courts should break the rope by which his hands were tied. The rope has been broken, and our party pledges will be redeemed. Secretary Dahlman has given his word for it, and no man ever knew Jim Dahlman to break his word. It is true he may be handicapped by Secretary Laws, who is acting pretty much like a republican just now, but surely the appointing power will kick Laws out of the office pretty quick in case he shall go to playing into the hands of the corporations.

Albion Argus (pop.): The Weaver law was an insurance law passed last winter. It was different from other laws on the subject. It was intended to be different. Among other things it took the insurance department from the auditor's office and placed it under the executive. This law was passed by a unanimous legislature—men who were fresh from the people and who were their representatives. A few days ago the supreme court got a whack at it and knocked it out on the ground that it was unconstitutional i-n o-n-e p-o-i-n-t. Herein is something marvelous—that the people decide they want a thing and three men can declare them off and make null and void their will! We wonder, with a great big wonder, of what use is the legislature? Why go to the farce and expense of assembling a body of men to enact the will of the people when three men can set all aside with a word? If this is where we are at then let's turn the whole matter over to these two or three men and save time and expense. Better yet, let's abolish these usurpers of power.

VARIATIONS IN WAR MUSIC.

Philadelphia Times: Britain now pins its faith on Roberts. Only a little while ago it was stuck on Buller.

Chicago Record: Alfred Austin has written another poem. That is the only advantage reported for the Boers yesterday.

Indianapolis News: The Boers are buying American corn. The Boers have shown good judgment ever since the beginning of the war.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: General Buller's army would never have lost the ten guns at Colenso if it had known anything practically about modern rifle fire. The annual maneuvers failed to include this ticklish point.

Louisville Courier-Journal: The Hindoo priests are praying for British success in the Transvaal. It will take an exceptional order of praying to offset Tammany's prayers for the Boers, but Great Britain seems equal to the emergency.

Chicago Chronicle: It is a long lane that has no turning. The Boers have enjoyed uninterrupted success, but we shall see what they are really made of when the duke of Marlborough and his 208 pairs of trousers meet them in battle array.

San Francisco Call: The Boers may be far behind the times in some things, but they are certainly up to date in sarcasm. They have given the British the uncomfortable assurance that if necessary every Boer may be armed with two Mausers instead of one. If the consequent damage would increase in the same ratio General Buller will find some way to get back to the Cape.

Philadelphia Press: The American mule is playing a varied and important part in the South African trouble. The stampeding of a lot of battery mules led to the surrender of a detachment of British, and now an outbreak of glanders among the animals threatens to hamper the effectiveness of several large bodies of troops. What coal is to the navy the mule appears to be to the army.

Chicago Inter Ocean: It is now admitted by the London correspondents in South Africa that the only battle thus far fought which can be claimed as a British victory was the skirmish at Belmont. This is particularly severe on General Lord Methuen, who had telegraphed congratulations to the queen over his victory at Modder river before he discovered that the Boers were driving his army in full retreat miles away from the battle grounds.

ECHOES OF OUR WAR.

Out in our beloved Sulu islands, where our distinguished fellow-American, Sultan Kiran, draws American dollars on a Mexican basis with the regularity and enthusiasm of a veteran officeholder, the natives have a way of handing out chunks of justice that is admirable for its effectiveness. Judicial injunctions are heeded there and contempt of court is too rare to require jail trimmings. Jails, in fact, are an inconvenience and are not thought of. Cleavers do the business so thoroughly that the culprit entertains no thought of appeal. The way it is done is thus told by a correspondent of Harper's Weekly:

A chief, or dato, controls a district; he has his own particular followers and his slaves. Besides these he may command all the men of his own district in time of war. He also has the right of life and death over his subjects. For instance, a few weeks before we arrived in Jolo, Dato Jokanine had occasion to execute one of his followers. The man had been intrusted with money belonging to the dato. The first time he came to his chief and said:

"Oh, great and benevolent dato, I have gambled away thy money; forgive me."

"Very well," said the dato. "See that it does not happen again."

Once more the retainer came, saying:

"Oh, great and benevolent dato, again have I gambled away thy money and again I beg thee, in thy great mercy, to forgive me."

"This is the second time I have forgiven thee," said Jokanine; "but the third time, I warn thee, thou shalt die."

Yet again the unfortunate man returned without the money he had collected for the dato.

"Oh, dato," he cried, throwing himself at the feet of his chief, "I have sinned again and taken thy money; mercy! mercy!"

"Cut him down," said the dato to one of his men-at-arms. The man offered no resistance, and was cut to pieces with one of the great knives of the natives.

Imagine such a system in operation in South Omaha!

Another story which shows well the authority of the dato over his people is worth the telling. It seems that a blacksmith had been making love in a quiet way to a member of the harem of Dato Jokanine. Jokanine knew of this, and came to the man's smithy one day. The smith was just finishing off a large barong.

"Let me see that knife," said Jokanine. Then, running his finger along the edge, he added, "It seems sharp; may I try it?"

"Certainly, dato," said the unsuspecting smith. Without a moment's hesitation Jokanine raised the knife and split the smith to the chin. The right a master has to kill a slave is therefore no stronger right than that exercised by all the datos and the sultan over the life of every man in Sulu.

Lieutenant Horace M. Reeve, aide to General Bates in his Sulu mission, gives his impressions of the Sulu island and the natives in a letter in the New York Independent. All the islands, he says, are beautiful and the climate is better than that of any other of the Philippines, as there is no rainy season. The inhabitants are unique. Nearly all of them are Mohammedan Malays, who came originally from Borneo and at present there is a strong Arabian infusion among them. There is another class of Malays called Samars, who are mostly fishermen. The remainder of the inhabitants are Chinamen. In physique the Moros resemble the Apache Indians and they are as desperate fighters as the latter and would make "foemen not to be despised if they chose to ambush American troops in the jungles and hills of their islands." They are all above manual labor, even the so-called slaves performing little work. The only industries are the pearl fisheries and the gathering of cocoanuts to obtain the copra. All the tropical fruits grow in abundance there. Lieutenant Reeve, who was the disbursing officer, contradicts the report that the sum of $10,000 was given as a bribe to the sultan. He was given $750 as compensation for the expense he had been at in preserving peace pending the negotiations and some of the "datos," or district leaders, in the various islands were given a few dollars for similar efforts in their districts.

This story has been told before, but it will bear repetition, as it illustrates a characteristic of Governor General Wood of Cuba. The incident happened during the early days of American rule in Santiago. A mob of Cubans decided to wreck the Spanish club. When Wood received the news he was sitting alone in his office, with one orderly in attendance. Plenty of arms were near, but he took none of them. He could have called out thousands of men by having his bugle blown, but he called out none. He picked up a little bamboo cane and told his orderly to come along. The orderly had a rifle. Wood strolled carelessly through the streets until he reached the scene of the disturbance, and then he gently made his way through the riotous crowd. Finally he reached the steps of the Spanish club. His orderly was behind him.

The mob in front was armed literally to the teeth. He knew it, but he did not care. He very quietly posted the orderly on the steps of the Spanish club and he said in both English and Spanish, in that quiet drawl which characterizes alike both Leonard Wood and Mark Twain, "Is your gun loaded?" The orderly answered, "Yes." "Then," said General Wood, "kill the first man who advances three paces from where the crowd stands now."

The orderly saluted and got his gun ready for business. Wood, with his little bamboo cane, strolled nonchalantly away, leaving that one blue-coated soldier to face as fierce a mob as ever gathered in Cuba. The mob looked at him, jabbered and dispersed. No attack was made on the Spanish club.

CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION.

Causes Which Operate to Draw Boys from the Farms.

Philadelphia Times.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Schaeffer, in his annual report, calls attention to the inclination of farmers' sons to leave the farm for the town or city and admits that the schools cultivate discontent with country life. As an antidote to this he would establish township high schools, in which scientific agriculture may be taught, thus striving to make country life more attractive by making farming more practicable.

As a means of improving agricultural methods and increasing the intelligence of the farming communities the establishment of township high schools is to be commended. But that the inclination of the farmers' sons for a business or professional career is traceable to any marked degree to the public schools is questionable. The causes which have built great cities and industrial centers at the expense of the farming population are many, but they are chiefly the outgrowth of the industrial development of the last fifty years. The country has been spanned with railroads and the farmers' sons have become engineers, conductors, telegraph operators, station agents, railway superintendents, etc., because they were needed more in such positions than they were on the farms. The development of the mining and manufacturing interests of the country has drawn on the young men from the rural communities for the same reasons. The hegira from the farm has been chiefly in response to the law of supply and demand.

The introduction of agricultural machinery on the farms has also helped to produce this result. One farm hand does the work that three or four did a generation ago. The supply of agricultural products has by this means more than kept pace with demand. If all the farmers' sons had remained at home farm produce would have been still cheaper and farming still more unprofitable than at present. While in individual instances the change from country to town has been disastrous to those who have left the farm, the movement as a whole has been part of an industrial revolution which distributed the workers where they were much needed. The farmers' boys have gone where they could best find remunerative employment and they will continue to do so in spite of agricultural high schools or the entire absence of schools of any sort.

The concentration of population in towns and cities is quite as marked in Europe as in America and it will not cease until an equilibrium between the food producers and other producers has been established. It may be that this point has been nearly reached, but until it is reached the process will continue and all efforts to stem the tide by educational or other processes will prove of small account.

LAST YEAR'S CHAFF.

Philadelphia Record: The fellow who can sing and won't isn't a marker to the one who can't but will.

Detroit Journal: It looks as if the art of wire-pulling might degenerate into mere check-drawing, in politics.

Harlem Life: "What have you been doing?" inquired a friend.

"Just cutting an acquaintance," replied Colonel Blind of Kentucky, wiping his bowie on his sleeve.

Yonkers Statesman: Bill—I see the clock dealer down the street is selling out.

Jill—Yes; he told me his business was all run down.

"And now he proposes to wind it up?"

Chicago Record: Weeks—I understand your baby has been very sick. Is the worst over?

Meeks—I'm afraid not. His health is all right, but we haven't named him yet.

Atlanta Constitution: "The editor is out," said the office boy to the old delinquent.

"How much?" asked the delinquent, with fine sarcasm.

"Sixty dollars," replied the office boy. "Are you ready to settle?"

Chicago Post: "I understand," said the neighbor, "that your husband is a dramatic critic."

"No," replied the little woman, bitterly; "he is even worse than that. He is a household critic."

Washington Star: "Have you gotten up your report of that murder trial?"

"My dear sir," said the journalist, "you underestimate the artistic dignity of the modern murder trial. I have not gotten up any report. But I have written what I consider an able criticism of it."

Chicago Tribune: "Why don't these fellows clap their hands when they want to applaud," said the man in the back seat. "They do nothing but stamp."

"This is a convention of philatelists," explained the man sitting next to him.

Philadelphia North American: "I have nothing to say for publication," said the great man.

"Of course not," urged the fly reporter. "And it's the stuff that isn't for publication that I'm after."

Detroit Journal: Here the Filipino patriot wept.

"Of course we are crushed!" he sobbed. "What with the yellow newspapers giving their whole time to directing the war against the Boers and leaving the war against us to direct itself!"

This shows that the Filipino, while perhaps incapable of self-government, is not entirely devoid of discernment.

A NEW LEAF.

(January 1, 1900.)

Last night the world was like a lotus-eater's dream,
An anguish in its sweetness lay—
The fire hath flown nor left one sullen gleam,
And so, repenting me, I say
I'll turn a new leaf o'er today.

Last night the roses kissed the air with drowsy scent,
Their perfumes rich enough to slay—
Alas! the vain voluptuous hours are spent,
And so, repenting me, I say
I'll turn a new leaf o'er today.

Last night the music ravished with a passioned strain—
It was too fiercely, madly gay,
The very echo of it mars the day with pain,
And so, repenting me, I say
I'll turn a new leaf o'er today.

Last night—ah me—I had my little fling at hell—
The joyance all is thrust away—
The red cheeks pale—the bright eyes dull—ah well—
And so, repenting me, I say
I'll turn a new leaf o'er today.

Last night the wine was good, the woman's lips were red—
But pshaw! the dawn came cold and gray
And all the soft seductiveness hath fled,
And so, repenting me, I say
I'll turn a new leaf o'er today.

—WILLIAM REED DUNROY.

A Happy New Year!

And a prosperous one is extended our friends and our enemies as well, if we have any.

May misfortune follow, but never overtake you.

A prosperous year to us has smoothed the wrinkles of discontent and we exclaim today from a joyous heart:

GOOD WILL AND PEACE TO ALL.

Our store will be closed all day Monday, New Year's Day, and during the months of January and February, instead of 10 p. m. Saturdays, we will close promptly at 9 p. m.

Browning, King & Co.
R. S. Wilcox, Manager.