THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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 April, 1900, was as follows:

1	27,715	16	28,260
2	27,610	17	27,220
3	28,180	18	27,320
4	28,220	19	27,830
5	27,910	20	27,760
6	27,820	21	28,020
7	27,800	22	27,690
8	28,805	23	27,490
9	27,640	24	28,000
10	28,360	25	27,600
11	28,370	26	27,660
12	27,620	27	27,695
13	27,830	28	27,710
14	27,620	29	27,960
15	28,030	30	27,260

Total 835,155
Less unsold and returned copies.... 10,071

Net total sales.....825,084
Net daily average.....27,502

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of May, 1900.

(Seal.) STOCKTON HETH, Notary Public.

The sweet girl graduate is again rapidly nearing the budding point.

An ordinance to regulate councilmanic explosions might also find public favor.

Senator Clark's little play in which he bade a tearful farewell to the senate was simply the preliminary act to getting a firmer grip on his seat.

The strike situation in Omaha is gradually simplifying. There is too much work ahead to have any considerable number of laborers idle in this city this season.

The Commercial club will do the graceful thing in responding to City Treasurer Hennings' soft intimation about its unpaid personal taxes. The club should set the example of good citizenship.

The movement to provide buildings and warehouses for jobbers locating in Omaha is a good one, but it should not get ahead of the movement to get the jobbing houses to locate here. The cart and the horse should not be too far apart.

With the advent of warm weather and the iceman the housekeeper is reminded that there is at least one trust which the great trust-smashing attorney general has not driven out of business. A glance at the court records also reveals that no action has been commenced.

Two weeks have elapsed since the republican state convention and the popocratic mud batteries have not opened up on the nominees. It must not be inferred from this that they are short of ammunition. The trouble is they have not yet found any place where it will stick.

The Ice trust is not a new institution. It has been victimizing Omaha ice consumers for several years past, during which time The Bee has repeatedly called attention to the fact, but the fusion law officers were too busy with various political schemes to take up the fray for the people.

Chairman Butler of the populist national committee says he will not resign in favor of Edmisten. The Bryan schemers needed watching at Sioux Falls and the senator is of the opinion that he must stay in his present position to preserve the victory he won in the convention.

Score one for the monumental gall of the editor of the guaranteed circulation Fakery in sending a telegram of greeting to the Boer envoys in the name of "the people of the great west." The three tailors of Tooley street issuing proclamations as "we, the people," were not a circumstance.

Democrats pretend to be the only sincere and genuine enemies of trusts in this country and yet, when the senate committee on judiciary voted to report a constitutional amendment giving congress the power to terminate the trust evil every democrat on the committee voted against it and every republican for it.

Only whites are allowed to vote in the democratic primaries in Georgia and as a nomination by that party in Georgia is the same as an election it does not require any great mental effort to discover how little the negro has to do with making the laws under which he must live or the officers who enforce them. This is the practice of the party which is just now making such a howl about the Porto Ricans and the Filipinos being deprived of their rights.

Congressman Neville is trying hard to counteract the damaging effect of his action in drawing unearned salary for the full term, although elected only to fill a vacancy after half the term had expired. Judge Neville has called to witness his fusion associates in congress that he has not drawn any money except what is due him by law. In other words, he justifies himself because the law allows him to draw money which he has not earned. But how does that make things any better for Congressman Neville?

PROPOSED ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION.

The country expects from the present congress legislation to restrain and repress monopolistic combinations. The party in power is pledged to such legislation. The republican national platforms of 1888 and 1892 declared unqualified opposition to trusts and all combinations to control arbitrarily the condition of trade. Referring to these declarations, President McKinley said in his inaugural address that "this purpose will be steadily pursued, both by the enforcement of the laws now in existence and the recommendation and support of such new statutes as may be necessary to carry them into effect." Republican state platforms have condemned the trusts and demanded national and state legislation for remedying the evils incident to them.

For some time a subcommittee of the judiciary committee of the house of representatives has been considering the question of trust legislation, the result of the deliberations being a proposed constitutional amendment giving congress power to define, regulate, control, prohibit or dissolve trusts, monopolies or combinations; also amending and supplementing the anti-trust act of 1890, so as to increase its penalties, enlarge its operation and render it more effective. These propositions have been approved by all the republican members of the judiciary committee and will be reported to the house.

The majority report on the proposed constitutional amendment declares that abuses of corporate powers and combined capital exist and hence the necessity for a competent controlling and restraining power. It is the judgment of the committee that "congress should have power to maintain an open field for honest competition in all industrial enterprises throughout the entire union" and that when a corporation becomes a monopoly, or a combination of corporations menaces the welfare of the people, congress ought to possess the power to control or repress it. The proposed amendment is declared to be necessary and wise. "The general welfare," says the report, "demands that this power exist in the general government and there is no liberty when illegal trusts, combinations, conspiracies and monopolies crush fair competition in industrial enterprises, control production and prices and thereby oppress and, to a degree, enslave the people." To this position there will be no dissent among those sincerely opposed to the monopolistic combinations.

Reaching the trusts through a constitutional amendment may be a slow and somewhat uncertain process, in view of the influence and the power for corruption possessed by the great combinations, but a determined effort must be made to secure such an amendment. In the meantime the existing law should be strengthened and the proposed amendments and additions to that law would perhaps prove adequate. At all events the subject should receive the early and careful attention of congress, to the end that some legislation shall be enacted at the present session. This is a duty of the party in power which it would be most unwise to neglect.

RECEIVING THE BOER ENVOYS.

The cabinet on Tuesday considered the matter of receiving the Boer envoys and decided to treat them with as much liberality as possible with a due regard for the diplomatic proprieties. If they have credentials they will be given opportunity to present them to the State department, but if they are not here in a diplomatic capacity they will be received only as any foreign visitors might be. If the envoys are not accredited representatives of the Orange Free State, which has an undisputed standing as a member of the family of nations, they have no claim to official recognition by our government, even though bearing credentials from the South African republic. They must be officially received, however, if they have credentials from the Orange Free State. Undoubtedly the Washington authorities will dispose of the matter as required by diplomatic usage and without offense to the delegates, with whose efforts in behalf of peace the administration is unquestionably as much in sympathy as any of the irresponsible persons who noisily proclaim their sympathy with an eye to political capital.

Meanwhile the envoys themselves have some obligations. One of them said in New York that "We should like to have the government arbitrate with England," but "if we cannot induce the government to do what we like, we shall try to arouse the people, so they will compel the government to recognize us in that way." If this is a correct report it does not show well for the judgment and discretion of the delegates. Thoughtful Americans generally will not look with favor upon an effort of foreigners, however worthy their mission, to force the government to recognize them by appeal to the people. There are not many Americans, we think, even among the most radical opponents of the administration, who would countenance anything of this sort and the Boer delegates may be assured that they cannot benefit their cause by adopting such a course. A contributor to the New York Sun refers to an incident in our early history that is in point. It was the attempt of the French minister Genet to array the people against the administration of Washington because of its refusal to aid France in the war with England. Genet was received with great popular enthusiasm on his arrival in this country, but when he undertook to defy the administration, because it refused to comply with his demands, and threatened to appeal from the president and his cabinet to the people, the threat was received with general indignation and resulted in the offensive minister being dismissed.

The American people will accord the Boer envoys every attention and consideration. They will courteously listen to all they have to say and treat them with hearty cordiality. But they will at the same time expect these visitors to show a proper regard for those in authority and particularly not to attempt to incite the people against the government. They are very likely to find men here who for a partisan purpose will counsel them to such a course, but they will make a grave mistake if they accept such advice.

NOW FOR THE ICE TRUST.

Having waited until the eve of the great political battle of 1900, the popocratic combine has concluded that the time is ripe for an onslaught on the Ice trust for the purpose of manufacturing campaign capital. The organ of the fusion political trust therefore sounds the alarm in double-column linotype slugs against this overshadowing monopoly which threatens suffering for the poor during the heated season.

That this outcry is simply part and parcel with the fusion political program is clear to anyone who will review the situation seriously. For months The Bee has been prodding the fusion attorney general to give vent to some of his trust-smashing proclivities by attacking the Omaha Ice trust as a giant combination near at home, but he has persistently fixed his eye on faraway monopolies like the Standard Oil and ignored those at his own door.

The Ice trust in Omaha is not a new institution, and efforts to make the people believe that they had the benefits of competition last year will not mislead. There was no more competition in ice last year in Omaha than there is this year. Although the Ice trust then appeared under the various names of the different consolidated corporations, no one could buy a pound of ice from one of them cheaper than from the other, the terms and rates being fixed by an iron-clad agreement.

But why have not the law officers, charged with the enforcement of the anti-trust laws, gone after the Omaha Ice trust before? Why has the fusion county attorney sat idly by refusing to hear the complaints against the extortion of the ice dealers? Why has the fusion attorney general left the Ice trust free and unmolested in its operations? The answer stands out by itself. It is because they hoped for better political results by deferring it until the campaign of 1900 should be on.

The Ice trust abuses should by all means be suppressed and any sincere movement for that purpose will have the vigorous support of the consumers and the public, but no grandstand play for the benefit of fusion officeseekers should be countenanced.

It is now Governor Poynter who is giving a striking example of law defiance in high positions. The governor announces that he does not propose to pay any attention to the temporary injunction issued to restrain him from interfering with the superintendent of the Institute for the Feeble Minded in the discharge of his duties on the ground that the executive, being a co-ordinate branch of the government, cannot be subject to a judicial order. This idea of executive exemption from court process is a relic of the old theory of the divine right of kings under which the sovereign was above all law. It has been rejected time and again by the courts of this state, which insist that sovereignty rests with the people and not with the servants of the people who happen to be entrusted with various functions of government.

The wild statement of an imaginative newspaper that the location of the republican state headquarters is figured worth $20,000 to the Omaha hotel chosen by the committee is being quoted in Lincoln as proof of a foul conspiracy on the part of this city to impose upon visitors drawn here by business at the headquarters. Such an absurd fiction should need no denial. As a matter of fact, Omaha is this year giving greater and more valuable favors to the republican headquarters than ever before enjoyed, the idea of making money out of the location being entirely subordinated to the desire to use it to the best advantage for republican success in the impending campaign, and republicans throughout the state will do well to discount all malicious fabrications to the contrary.

After much delay County Attorney Shields has carried to the supreme court on appeal the case brought in the district court here to test the validity of the law limiting the salary of the clerk of the district court to $5,000. This law was passed by the last legislature after a stubborn fight made against it by the beneficiaries of the fee system, who were also behind the suit to annul it in the courts, and the appeal should be pushed to a speedy hearing. We believe the law is not only salutary, but also legally enacted. If not, the people should know it at once and see to it that its provisions are re-enacted in proper form by the next legislature.

The free silver republicans do not amount to much when it comes to casting votes at election times, but the score of men who pretend to belong to such a party practically dictate the nominations of the fusion combine. In other words a handful of men who do not number 1,000 in the state select the state officers and congressmen in case the fusion ticket is elected. It is a system which beats proxies in a convention two to one.

Every citizen interested in the substantial and attractive appearance of the city should back Mayor Moores up in his stand against the periodical suspension of the fire limit ordinance for the benefit of particular individuals. The ordinance is none too severe and should be enforced against one and all alike.

The State Board of Transportation is due to make a bluff at reducing freight rates in order to offset the effect of the failure to raise the valuation of railroad property for purposes of taxation. The reduction, of course, is expected to be tied up in the courts, but it will do for a stalking horse.

Model of His Class.

New York Sun.

According to Hon. Dave Overmyer, "perhaps the best known democrat in Kansas," "given a free ballot and a fair count, two-thirds of the voters of the United States would register themselves against McKinley and imperialism." Presumably Mr. Overmyer's notion of a free ballot and a fair count is that of the Kentucky democrats. We quote from him only because he is a fair specimen of the judicious and thoughtful Bryanite leader.

Hollow Sound.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

When the United States senate considers a hollow projectile behind closed doors there must be something in it.

Race of Capital Movers.

Chicago Record.

Aguinaldo is still several points ahead of President Steyn in the matter of moving capitals, but the latter is catching up.

Recruits on the Move.

Washington Post.

Three thousand mules sailed from New Orleans yesterday for South Africa. The American forces in the Transvaal are steadily increasing.

Strain on the Check Valve.

Washington Star.

It is given out that Mr. Bryan has retired to his farm in Nebraska, and will make no more speeches for two months. If the report be correct it will be in order to expect a tremendous gas explosion in Nebraska inside of that period.

Just to Allay Anxiety.

Cleveland Leader.

It is announced from Washington that the friends of the president are not inclined to force anybody to take second place on the ticket. This statement was probably necessary to allay the anxiety of those who thought the whole thing was to be settled in Washington.

Why the Colonel Reformed.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

An esteemed contemporary speaks profanely of the Courier-Journal's "double-leaded, double-column editorial fulminations." Not on your life, you lubber! We do confess to some delinquencies when the disease first struck the yellow journals. But when every skip-rooster in the business began to trick out his stale, flat and unprofitable stupidities in the expanding shirt front of the double-column—jackassery, damphoolism, bad grammar and all—we thought it time for sensible people to quit and we quit!

Private Pension Bills.

Minneapolis Times.

On last Friday ninety-one such special bills were rushed through. Most of them were for the benefit of persons who had been before the pension bureau with their applications and had been turned down. Some of the disappointed pension applicants have political influence, or they have personal friends in congress. So ninety-one cases in which the applicants could not secure pensions under the general law were now taken up in one day as a matter of politics or favoritism and the house passed the ninety-one bills at once without debate.

Hit with a Silver Brick.

Chicago Post.

Sioux Falls is the most progressive city in South Dakota. Its streets are paved with jasper (stone); it has fine business blocks, a handsome federal building, good water, electric lights, street car lines, enterprising newspapers, a monthly magazine of real literary merit and citizens of the proverbial "go" for which South Dakota is justly famed. In addition it has a miscellaneous assortment of cot beds and canned goods that can be had for a song. One populist convention will last Sioux Falls, say, sixteen years, to maintain the parity.

Peace Prospects Brightening.

Philadelphia Ledger.

When the Philippine commission reaches Manila it will probably take the first opportunity to ascertain whether Senor Buencamino, the Filipino leader, had authority for saying that its guaranty of personal rights and liberty for the Filipinos, all other questions being left to congress, would cause Aguinaldo to surrender and order a cessation of hostilities, or whether he spoke merely his own opinion. If the former, the end is not far off, since the commission will undoubtedly give such a pledge without hesitation. But it will first make sure that the offer is bona fide and not for purposes of deception.

NEW PENSION CLAIMS.

Applications of Soldiers of the Spanish American War.

Milwaukee Sentinel.

The number of pension claims filed on account of the Spanish war and the Philippine insurrection is 28,500 and it is probable that a great many more applications still remain to be made. All in all it is expected that there will be proportionately more claims filed as a result of the Spanish war than there were on account of the civil war. This is the opinion of Commissioner of Pensions Evans. It seems, however, that there were very few bad wounds incurred during the war, which Mr. Evans ascribes to the use of the small caliber Mauser bullet. About 1,000 men were wounded in the war, but most of the wounds received have healed completely, leaving the wounded men as well as ever. But twenty-nine amputations were necessary in the regular army during the whole of the year 1898, and only three of these were so serious that the soldiers died. In regard to the large number of claims Mr. Evans says:

"But the question may very pertinently be asked: 'On what pretext then do these 28,500 applicants for pensions base their claims?' They are perfectly legitimate claims, but bullets had nothing to do with them. Disease kills and disables far more men than shot and shell do. For this reason the pension applications to come are likely to add very materially to the list of those helped by Uncle Sam for services rendered. A soldier contracts malarial fever or suffers from some climatic disability which takes hold of his system and lays the seeds of a permanent invalidism that puts the man as legitimately within the scope of the pension list as though he had lost a finger, a hand, an arm or a leg. From such disabilities as these, the result of a season of camping in an unwholesome jungle or in a damp country, where even the constitution of robust youth was not proof against the deadly attack of disease germs, the pension roll of the late war is swelling and will continue to swell for many years to come.

"It matters not how long after the time of war the disability shows itself, the man is entitled to a pension and gets it. If he can prove that he has become deaf, a prey to rheumatism, failing sight or pulmonary troubles as a direct result of his services during the war, the discharged soldier is entitled to a pension. This explains the length of the list of pension applicants compared with the few men wounded in the late war, and the still fewer, infinitely fewer, men disabled by wounds that made amputation necessary."

The commissioner of pensions admits that it will be impossible to deal satisfactorily with all the claims. Many are likely to be allowed that are not deserved, while some of the deserving cases may be disallowed. The pension office is unable to examine each individual case, but a remedy has been suggested that should be helpful. This is the appointment in every state of a board of medical examiners to meet semi-annually, before whom applicants for pensions are required to appear separately. This, it is thought, would effectually squelch the fraudulent applicants for pensions.

Death in Wood Alcohol.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., May 16.—Three men and one woman are dead at South Fork, near here, and another man will die as a result of drinking wood alcohol at a picnic Sunday. Lawrence Smith, Peter Broeck, Joe Pologzinski and the latter's mother are dead and Joe Smith is in a critical condition and may die at any time. All were Poles.

ON KOP AND VELDT.

Scenes and Incidents Along the Firing Lines in South Africa.

Rev. Peter Macqueen, the Boston clergyman who visited the Philippines last year and created widespread comment by exposing the looting of churches and denouncing the policy of expansion, is now in South Africa reporting events in that warm corner of the planet. In a late letter to Leslie's Weekly he says: "Most people expect in a few years the federation of all the country south of the Zambesi river, under the title of the United States of South Africa. Many Englishmen I meet are strongly for this and they all declare that Mr. Cecil Rhodes is not an imperialist and that he will give the English government a vast amount of trouble yet, it being his ambition to be president of the United States of South Africa. This republic is to be founded on the constitution of the United States of America.

"Meanwhile the Boers are going to fight to a finish; the farmers expect them to 'trek' north and wrest some of Rhodesia from England and again carve a new republic from the desert. Here they will still their tumultuous impulses until the great republic arises from Capetown to Zambesi. It is fixed in the minds of the Boers I have been talking with here that Johannesburg and the mines will be destroyed. The women are more determined than the men and have already gotten 500 persons to swear a solemn oath and sign a contract to do the work of destruction. France is going to offer Madagascar as an asylum for the exiles."

Jerome K. Jerome indulges in a few pointed remarks on certain phases of jingoism as manifested in London since the tide turned in favor of British arms. In a letter to a London newspaper, cabled to the Chicago Tribune, Jerome says: "Some there be among us who think to prove themselves big Englanders by jeering at and abusing a little foe. The correspondent of the Daily News, who has met this class of 'patriot,' thus describes him: 'A thing all mouth and no manners, a shallow-brained, cowardly creature, always howling about the Boer, but too discreet to go out and fight him, but ready at all times to malign him and ridicule him.' And even the better class among us seem to have allowed the war fever to blind them to that spirit of chivalry and fair play which once upon a time was not denounced as un-English.

"A respectable, staid, old-fashioned London newspaper went out of its way a few months ago to jeer at Mrs. Kruger, wife of President Kruger. There was a time when Englishmen fought the sons and husbands, but treated the wives and mothers of their foes with respect. In a prominent print shop not far from Charing Cross I looked over the shoulders of a large and delighted crowd at a somewhat inartistic caricature of Presidents Kruger and Steyn sitting in the stocks. They are being bruised and battered with bad eggs, stones and dead cats, and beside them on the ground lies their torn bible.

"Well, it is only a jest, you say; but a nation's humor is somewhat characteristic of a nation's temper. It may be old-fashioned prejudice on my part, but it pains me to see the reading of the bible sneered at as necessarily a sign of hypocrisy. We should remember that we ourselves are not entirely free from similar reproach. Cromwell's Ironsides would as soon have thought of leaving their bibles behind them on the march as their swords. Maybe the drawling cavalier sneered at them for this, but the sneer died out when it come to fighting them.

"Mr. Cecil Rhodes devises, while sipping his champagne in Kimberley, pleasant little bits of humor. He has bullets stamped with his compliments, so as to add a touch of fun to the dying agony of the Boer burghers. Hawkers reap a rich reward from grinning city crowds by calling out 'Dying Boers, only tuppence each,' the dying Boer being a rubber pig that squeaks and groans as the air escapes. At any other time such would only be silly. But the Boers are dying on the veldt, old men and young boys, giving their blood to their cause.

"I am unable to see the fun of it all. War seems to me a serious affair—a terrible occasional necessity to be faced by thinking men with grave earnestness. The man at the front who laughs and jests is another matter. We know what that means. But the comfortable, well-fed, stay-at-home who cracks his little joke about death and wounds seems to me contemptible—a sort of evil-minded monkey that one's instinct is to kick."

While divisions of the British and Boer armies were operating in the southeast corner of the Orange Free State, great interest was aroused as to what would happen should the Boers cross the border of Basutoland. The Basutos were closely watching the frontier and were reported ready to take a hand in the fracas. But the occasion did not arise. Both Briton and Boer carefully avoided stirring the blacks, and the reason for the great caution shown is explained by a correspondent of the Chicago Record. He writes: "Back of all the questions which have brought the Boer and the Briton into the field against each other stands the black specter of native revolt. I have not at hand the figures showing the excess in numbers of the blacks over the whites in the British colonies and in the territories adjacent to the Boer republics, but it is so great that a precipitation of the natives into the conflict might result in wiping out of existence nearly all the population of Caucasian descent in South Africa. Throughout the Orange Free State and the South African republic the white male citizens are in the ranks of the Boer armies to such an extent that hardly any one is left on the farms except women and young children. The land is being cultivated and the stock cared for by the negroes. If the latter should feel that the time had come for them to throw off the rule of the white man and retake possession of the land as they once held it, under their former chiefs they would kill every human being of white descent outside the army lines. Knowing, therefore, how open to such a possibility they are, the Boers are as fearful as the British of allowing the native to take any part in the war."

PERSONAL POINTERS.

General Arthur MacArthur, who has succeeded General Otis in supreme command in the Philippines, is eight years younger than his predecessor.

The kaiser has dismissed the royal barber to whose skill the peculiar twist of the royal mustache is accredited. The bounce straightened out some kinks in court etiquette.

It is not believed that any part of Captain Oberlin M. Carter's punishment will be harder to bear than the wearing of prison garb at Leavenworth. A more fastidious dresser never lived.

An odd and somewhat ghastly event of late was the seizure of a cemetery in Pennsylvania by the sheriff under foreclosure proceedings. In this case the mortgage was literally a death grip.

Governor Robert B. Smith of Montana has, like Senator Clark, made a fortune in mining. He is popular in the mining districts, the men regarding him almost as one of themselves, but respecting him none the less.

According to a Paris correspondent of the New York Herald, Commissioner Peck hesitated to offer champagne to his guests at the opening of the United States pavilion at the exposition, "as he was afraid that it would not be approved in New York."

Judge William Lochren of Minnesota, who, since his recent decision regarding the status of Porto Rico, has been accused of aspirations for the presidency, is ineligible to that office, having been born in Ireland, although he came to this country at a very early age.

BRIGHT SILVER LINING.

Prosperity in the Silver States, Regardless of the Ratio.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming considered the free coinage of silver so necessary to their interests that they gave Bryan more than four votes to McKinley's one. Most people in those four states were sincerely convinced that without free silver they would be utterly ruined. Yet these states were never more solidly prosperous than now. Not only has the denial of free silver failed to ruin them, but under the gold standard they have grown enormously in wealth.

The bank deposits of any community represent its working capital and its savings, aside from permanent investments. Here is the story told by the growth of the bank deposits of Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming from July 1, 1894, to June 30, 1899. At the former date the Sherman silver purchase act had been repealed and the mountain states were aflame with indignation. At the latter date the gold standard law had not yet been passed, but its principle had been affirmed in two national elections and its enactment was inevitable. Here are the figures:

Colorado, on July 1, 1894: Bank deposits, $9,379,733; number of depositors, 18,532; average deposit in national banks, $537; in state and private banks, $325. On June 30, 1899: Bank deposits, $20,059,377; number of depositors, 30,047; average deposit in national banks, $729; in state and private banks, $445.

Wyoming makes a proportionate showing even better than Colorado's. In 1894 its bank deposits were $1,252,636 and its depositors were 3,026. In 1899 its deposits were $3,152,909 and its depositors were 6,494. In the five years the average deposit in national banks had increased $50 and in state and private banks, $110.

Montana has long been known as a wealthy state and the absence of free silver has not checked its prosperity. In five years its bank deposits have grown from $4,063,434 to $8,760,823, and its depositors from 7,363 to 13,221. In 1894 the average deposit in Montana national banks was $563; last year it was $712.

Even Idaho, in spite of its labor troubles, has advanced in prosperity. The bank deposits have increased $454,000 and the number of depositors 850. Idaho's resources are not so readily accessible as Colorado's and Montana's and its development began much later, but, nevertheless, Idaho is doing well.

The prosperity of Kansas, Nebraska and other agricultural states which upheld the silver cause is so manifest that even the most bigoted calamity howler has been unable to ignore it. He could only say that the republican party ought not to claim credit for abundant crops here and short crops in other lands. But how can the calamity howler explain the continued and increasing prosperity of states so largely interested in the silver mining industry as Colorado and Montana?

LIVE STOCK CENSUS IN THE WEST.

Many Interesting Facts Developed by the Investigation.

Denver Post.

The taking of the live stock census in the west is in full progress, and the officials charged with the work are pleased with the assistance they are receiving from the Stock Growers' association, without which their duty would be very difficult to perform. So far the work is only in the elementary stage, but it has nevertheless developed some very interesting facts. One is that the character of western cattle has changed materially during the last two decades, as have the stock ranges. The old-time range, the free, unlimited and unfenced reach of prairie has disappeared, and with it that class of range cattle for which the western plains were once celebrated. The cattle which now come to market are of superior breed—Hereford, Galloway and Shorthorn. The Longhorn has shared the fate of the buffalo; it is gone, never to return, for there is more money in improved high grade stock, which can be marketed two years younger.

Another change which the taking of this census has demonstrated is the disappearance of the old-time range. There is, in fact, but one left in the northern part of Montana, where a tract of land 200 miles wide is still virgin range territory, but it will soon be destroyed, for too many cattle are being driven onto it. It may be set down as a fact that in another decade cattle raising will be carried on exclusively in fenced pastures, with alfalfa used for winter feeding. This will tend to improve the quality of the stock, and also the prospects for better returns, as then there will be a smaller risk, less labor and a better price for the cattle sent to market. The fact is well established that it no longer pays to raise poor cattle. It is only the best grades which prove remunerative. This is now the accepted theory among the stock growers.

So far as the census has progressed it shows that the estimates formerly placed by the Agricultural department on the stock supply in the west have been excessive, and will have to be reduced probably by several millions when all the returns have been sent in, which will not be for several months yet.

SENATE AND ITS SECRETS.

How the Details of Executive Sessions Reach the Newspapers.

Philadelphia Times.

For the hundredth time the sanctity of the oaths of United States senators has been called in question and this time by a senator. Two secret sessions of the upper house have been held within the past forty-eight hours in which recent improvements in projectiles of very high penetrating power have been discussed. The charge was explicitly made on the floor of the senate that the secrets of that high body had been divulged to newspaper correspondents and, it was predicted, the same would be printed in the daily journals. This senator guessed right, as our news columns demonstrate.

Few people not in Washington realize the low estimate put upon the senatorial oath by some members of the chamber. That the newspapers will secure the details of secret sessions is taken for granted by the reading public, but many hard words are constantly spoken about Washington correspondents in congress with the cuttlefish purpose of obscuring the real manner in which official secrets are betrayed.

A dictum was once uttered by the New York Tribune in the following clear language: "It is the duty of the senate to keep its secrets; it is the duty of our correspondents to get us the news."

The truth is that the secrets of the United States senate are disclosed by members of the chamber.

A copy of the treaty of Washington was dropped out a committee room window to a newspaper correspondent waiting below, with the knowledge of a senator, who was paid his price in cash. Many silly tales about eavesdroppers were invented to shield the man who violated the confidence reposed in him by his fellow senators. White and Ramsdell endured imprisonment for many days rather than expose the rottenness among the very body of men that persecuted them.

About that same time a vice president of the United States was a notorious huckster of secret information along Newspaper Row. He was wont to crawl up a dark stairway on F street at a late hour after every "executive session" and there disclose to the utmost details all that had occurred behind the closed doors. This is said with positive knowledge.

The hour has sounded for a cessation of talk by senators about the obtrusive energy of the newspapers. For our part we do not want to hear any more remarks of the kind from Tillman or any other senator.

NOTHING SERIOUS.

Washington Star: "Don't worry too much 'bout appearances," said Uncle Eben. "De patent leather in yoh shoes looks fine, but it ain' gwinter keep yoh feet f'um hurtin'."

Puck: Papa—Perhaps you don't understand what a pro-Boer is.

Johnny—Oh, yes! He's a man that roots for the Boers.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "But, dad, what do you know about psychology and physics and Delsarte?"

"And what do you know, my dear boy, about geography and arithmetic and spelling?"

Green Bag: "Your lawyer made some pretty severe charges against the other fellow, didn't he?"

"Y-e-e-s; but you ought to see how he charged me."

Detroit Free Press: Mrs. Kingley—Do you know, Mrs. Whittier asked me to call on her, and her children have the measles.

Mrs. Bings—Yes. She probably knew that you would find it out.

Philadelphia Press: "Do you know anything at all about drilling?" asked the sergeant.

"Faith, I know all about it," replied the raw recruit. "I wurrked in a quarry for monny years befoor I j'ined th' army."

Indianapolis Press: Iron-Like. "There is a suit, my friend," said the dealer, "that will wear like iron."

"I guess that feller was no liar," said the victim two weeks after. "The dash-binged suit is rusty already."

Chicago Tribune: "Isn't the street car strike affecting business in your town?" the St. Louis man was asked.

"Yes, I think it is," he replied. "We are selling rather more shoes now than usual."

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE.

Chicago News.

Softly comes the memory flowing,
Softly as the zephyrs blowing
From the lake!
And I think 'mid business cares
Of the luscious shortcake squares
Mother'd bake.

With the rolling-pin before her
And a hot range to assure her,
She would start;
And she'd have the pastry heaping,
With the giant berries peeping
For the heart.

I can see the syrup dripping
And a luscious berry slipping
From beneath;
And the paste was golden yellow
And the berries made a fellow
Bite his teeth.

But I'll never taste her equal;
No, there'll never be a sequel
To her brand;
For I board and I am getting
Shortcake with one berry setting.
Full of sand.

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