# THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year..$6.00
Daily Bee and Sunday, One Year..... 8.00
Illustrated Bee, One Year..... 2.00
Sunday Bee, One Year..... 2.00
Saturday Bee, One Year..... 1.50
Twentieth Century Farmer, One Year... 1.00
Weekly Bee, One Year..... .25

OFFICES.

Omaha: The Bee Building.
South Omaha: City Hall Building, Twenty-fifth and M Streets.
Council Bluffs: 10 Pearl Street.
Chicago: 1640 Unity Building.
New York: Temple Court.
Washington: 501 Fourteenth Street.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

BUSINESS LETTERS.

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

REMITTANCES.

Remit by draft, express or postal order, payable to The Bee Publishing Company. Only 2-cent stamps accepted in payment of mail accounts. Personal checks, except on Omaha or Eastern exchanges, not accepted.

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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 January, 1901, was as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 25,500 | 17 | 26,240 |
| 2 | 26,820 | 18 | 26,300 |
| 3 | 26,330 | 19 | 26,620 |
| 4 | 26,210 | 20 | 26,720 |
| 5 | 26,410 | 21 | 26,050 |
| 6 | 26,850 | 22 | 26,410 |
| 7 | 26,410 | 23 | 26,820 |
| 8 | 26,380 | 24 | 29,180 |
| 9 | 26,240 | 25 | 26,410 |
| 10 | 26,440 | 26 | 26,120 |
| 11 | 26,240 | 27 | 26,815 |
| 12 | 26,420 | 28 | 26,180 |
| 13 | 26,700 | 29 | 42,770 |
| 14 | 26,550 | 30 | 28,840 |
| 15 | 26,450 | 31 | 26,150 |
| 16 | 26,320 | | |
| Total | | | 840,085 |
| Less unsold and returned copies | | | 10,017 |
| Net total sales | | | 830,068 |
| Net daily average | | | 26,776 |

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of January, A. D. 1901. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

(Seal.)


It was discovered that there is a difference between Sarah's French and that spoken in Omaha.

Two days of rest and opportunity to think it over did much to clear the way to a solution of the senatorial situation.

The committee on mines and mining might investigate the vein of holdup bills which it is alleged has been discovered at Lincoln.

Iowa democrats have declared in committee against fusion. The stub end of democracy in that state is too short to make another weld.

With $15,000,000 in cash to start on St. Louis should be able to get up a good exposition, particularly if a little Omaha energy is injected into the enterprise.

Undoubtedly the council feels the matter most keenly, but the majority of its members have courage enough to face a world darkened by the frown of Mr. Poppleton.

There were 39,673 applications for patents filed in the United States during the past year. The record does not seem to indicate that the inventive genius of this country is worked out.

The son of Inventor Edison has purchased a farm and gone into the poultry business. If he can induce his father to invent a method of making hens lay during cold weather it will be a money maker.

The magnitude of the Union Pacific's late moves is just beginning to dawn on the business world. Omaha will be more directly benefited by the expansion of the great Overland route than any other community.

A bill has passed the house which its sponsors fondly hope will result in giving Nebraska good roads. If it accomplishes that result that alone will be sufficient warrant for the existence of the present legislature.

Major General Chaffee originally enlisted in the regular army as a private. The general is the best argument that can be raised for the American system of promoting worthy men from the ranks, as compared with the favorite system in vogue in several of the European countries.

Now that Queen Victoria is dead and buried the correspondents are busy sending out stories of the various diseases with which the new king is afflicted. They have just got started and they have already given him more complaints than an American patent medicine is warranted to cure, but the king insists he is feeling quite well.

The members of the senate returned to their work after the three days' vacation exhibiting a disposition to get through with some of the accumulated business which the committees had ground out in the meantime. It is apparent that when both houses get into full swing they will not disappoint their friends who have been calling for a business session.

How amazed would be some of the members of the Twenty-ninth congress if they were permitted to take the trip that is now possible from the Great Lakes to the Pacific coast. One of the objections raised to the proposed railroad was that it could not be operated during several months in the year on account of snow. All of which shows that a man may be a statesman and still not know everything.

The tax levy has been made and the committee which demanded a reduction has expressed its contempt for the city council. But there will be no attempt made to repudiate any of the obligations assumed by the city government, and the credit of Omaha will be maintained by the very easy method of paying public bills. It is absolutely necessary to spend money to properly take care of the affairs of a great and growing city, and this money can only be raised by levying taxes.

### *LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT.*

It is plain that no legislative apportionment bill can be put through the legislature except as a party measure. The attitude of the fusion minority will be determined by fusion caucus at the dictation of the steering committee that has been appointed with unrestricted powers and no question exists but that the fusion members will be almost solidly lined up against any scheme of redistricting that places them at greater disadvantage for capturing the legislature than they now suffer. The fusion machine would rather keep the present apportionment and saddle upon the republicans the responsibility for failing to accord proper legislative representation to those sections of the state which under the new census are entitled to additional members of the two houses of the legislature. Nothing would suit the fusion managers better than to be placed in position to make political capital out of a grievance of this kind arising from republican inaction or disagreement.

Under the circumstances it is incumbent for the republicans to agree upon an apportionment plan among themselves. The arrangement of the several districts should conform as closely as possible to the population schedules of the 1900 census with a view to a perfectly fair distribution of the representation. Where the combination of counties into float districts must be made to the benefit of one or another party the republicans have a right to reap that benefit to themselves rather than give it to their opponents, but arbitrary gerrymandering for partisan advantage always reacts to the party detriment.

Whenever and wherever redistricting bills must be acted on the minority is sure to charge the majority with undue partisanship. The only thing for the republican majority to do is to perform its duty fearlessly as promised in its state platform and rely on the people to sustain the measure because of its intrinsic fairness to all interests.

### *BANISHMENT OR DEATH!*

That is the question which the foreign envoys in China are called upon to determine as to certain officials named in the list of those submitted to the Chinese plenipotentiaries for punishment. The representatives of China have pointed out that while the imperial government hopes to carry out the demands of the powers and to make the punishment of offenders satisfactory, there are certain persons who, because of their close relation to the throne, the government feels should be punished by banishment and not death.

One of these is Prince Tuan, a member of the royal family and a man of great influence in the empire. There is no question as to his complicity in the anti-foreign uprising and the government admits that he should be punished, but there is the danger that if the death penalty be insisted upon the people will revolt and that the overthrow of the dynasty itself might result. An order of banishment could be carried out probably without much difficulty, but there is very good reason to apprehend that an order for the execution of Tuan would meet with formidable resistance on the part of his followers, who doubtless include all the anti-foreign element. Another in the list submitted by the foreign envoys is a general who has a large force under his command and who it is believed would use this force to resist an attempt to punish him with death. It might not be a very hard matter to make this the nucleus of a very large army, for the Chinese people are not all in sympathy with the attitude of their government, but many of them, on the contrary, are ripe for revolt.

Moderation in this matter would seem to be the wise and prudent course, but this some of the powers, notably Germany, have not shown a disposition to adopt. In the interest of unity in the negotiations, our government acquiesced in the demand for the execution of several of the minor officials connected with the anti-foreign uprising, but the American minister has strenuously opposed such punishment for the higher officials charged with participation in the outbreak. He should be permitted by the government to maintain this attitude, because it is in the interest of peace and of an early settlement with China. Insistence on the demand that the persons closely related to the throne shall be punished with death will not only add to the gravity and difficulties of the situation, but very likely result in war. That is manifestly what the imperial government fears and it must be presumed to understand the feeling of the people. Possibly some of the powers are not unwilling to have war with China, but so far as this country is concerned all its efforts should and undoubtedly will be directed in the interest of peace.

### *PASS THE SPOONER BILL.*

It is reported from Washington that the question of an extra session of the Fifty-seventh congress is still in abeyance, but the opinion is expressed that in the event of the passage of the Spooner Philippine bill an extra session may be avoided. Otherwise it is expected that an extra session will be called.

This measure should be passed. Such legislation has been urged by the Philippine commission and it is not to be doubted that it would have a favorable effect upon the Philippine situation. The Spooner bill simply provides that when all insurrection against the sovereignty and authority of the United States in the Philippines shall have been completely suppressed "all military, civil and judicial powers necessary to govern the said islands shall, until otherwise provided by congress, be vested in such person and persons and shall be exercised in such manner as the president of the United States shall direct for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of said islands in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion." The Taft commission has pointed out that under existing conditions no purely central civil government can be established, no public franchises of any kind granted and no substantial investment of private capital in internal improvements is possible. The secretary of war has said to congress that the development of the Philippines along the lines of peaceful industrial progress now requires the exercise of powers of civil government not vested in the executive department of the government, but requiring a grant of authority from congress.

Such grant is contained in the Spooner bill, which is substantially identical with legislation to govern the territory acquired under the Louisiana purchase. Regardless of the question of an extra session, this legislation being clearly desirable should be enacted by the present congress, so that the legislative powers which it has been decided the Philippine commission does not possess may be conferred upon it.

### *MORE FUSION REFORM.*

The last issue of the Independent, which professes to speak as the official mouthpiece of Nebraska populists, contains a pitiful appeal for donations to keep the fusion machine a-running and lift the millstone of indebtedness that is weighing it down. In the interest of reform and the divorce of the judiciary from politics it addresses the fusionist lawyers enjoying soft berths on court benches as follows:

> The supreme judges have to make their personal campaign but once in six years and they ought to contribute liberally. They have been accorded high honor at the hands of their fellow citizens—gratitude and party pride should open their hearts and pocketbooks. District judges have a personal campaign to make once in four years. They, like the supreme judges, have been signally honored by their fellow citizens—and they should not cripple the party by withholding contributions.

This is certainly reform with a vengeance. Think of the allied forces of reform attempting without disguise to hold up supreme court justices and district judges for partisan purposes by telling them they must pay for the honors they are enjoying, with the implied threat that a refusal will justify installing as their successors good fusionists who appreciate the true money value of the positions.

If the republicans should issue such an appeal what a howl of wrath would be precipitated from the "reform" press. As long as it comes from the fusion camp, however, the dutiful judges will promptly obey the edict of the machine and with the wheels once more greased the patriots in command will take up the banner of reform for another forward movement.

### *TO PREVENT HAZING.*

The provision in the military academy bill, which passed the senate yesterday, for the prevention of hazing at West Point, will probably prove effective. It requires the superintendent of the academy to make rules, subject to the approval of the secretary of war, for preventing the practice of hazing and provides that any cadet found guilty of participating in or encouraging the practice shall be expelled from the academy and will not thereafter be appointed to the corps or be eligible for a command in the army or the navy.

Of course the effectiveness of this legislation will depend a good deal upon the care and vigilance of the officers of the academy, but it is perhaps safe to assume that very few, even among the most reckless of the cadets, will run the risk of expulsion and loss of eligibility for appointment in the army or navy by violating the regulations against hazing. There is now an agreement or promise on the part of the cadets to abandon the practice, but none the less the legislation for its prevention is necessary and it is not to be doubted will have a salutary influence upon the institution. At any rate there is the assurance that there will not soon be a recurrence of the brutality which the investigation of the academy disclosed.

Public control of quasi-public functions is not promoted by the granting of perpetual franchises with unlimited privileges, even for the purpose of making such franchise "attractive." The county commissioners will serve their constituents better by guarding the interests of the people rather than those of the promoters. It may be true that capital is not anxious to venture on the construction of a system of suburban electric lines around Omaha right now, but never is a long time and when capital does get ready to take an interest in this matter it will be much to the advantage of the people to have the control in their hands, rather than in the hands of a body of speculators. Wholesome safeguards for the public will not deter moneyed men from venturing in a profitable field. Being safe is preferable to being sorry.

Senator Vest expresses himself as of the opinion that the United States, neither through congress nor the executive can exercise any control over the Cuban constitution when it is adopted by the convention, but that this country at the same time must be responsible to the world for the good behavior of Cuba. Either one or the other of the senator's conclusions is certainly wrong. The supreme court of the United States has declared Cuba to be a foreign country, but for all that the United States certainly has the right to say whether it will stand sponsor for a government in that island, and will undoubtedly exercise the right if the constitution adopted is not such as to command the confidence of the president and congress.

Those country people who are so urgently insisting that Omaha people should not interfere in the country electric road proposition are reminded that Omaha people pay four-fifths of the total taxes collected for Douglas county and have as deep an interest in the county roads as any farmer may possibly have.

St. Louis is proceeding steadily in the promotion of its proposed great exposition. Government support is now practically assured. The present legislature must make ample arrangements for Nebraska's appropriate participation in the show.

### A Daily Grind.

Indianapolis News.

General Kitchener has another regret coming.

### Merely an Imitator.

Indianapolis Press.

General MacArthur seems to be emulating the example of Mrs. Stanford in dealing with obstreperous persons who insist upon freedom of speech.

### Revival of Antiques.

Baltimore Herald.

It is a great consolation to reflect that all the reasons now advanced why the country must inevitably go to the dogs were outlined not long after the constitution had been adopted.

### Playing the Better Part.

Boston Herald.

Helen Gould's $400,000 gift for the hall for the benefit of the sailors and marines of the Brooklyn navy yard contrasts rather favorably with the Castellane investment in Wertheimer bric-a-brac.

### Oppressing the Poor.

Baltimore American.

Such wonderful things are being predicted of electricity in the way of artificial sunshine, germ-killing and cheapness in the future that humane people are beginning to talk of a society for the prevention of cruelty to the poor gas companies.

### Samples of Freak Laws.

Chicago Post.

If the Indiana legislature is not careful it will outdistance the lawmakers of Kansas and Missouri in the way of doing freak things. Its latest bid for notoriety is a decision in which it declares the buyer of a vote above reproach, but the seller a rascally criminal.

### Measure of a Cuban Patriot.

Chicago Chronicle.

It is unpleasant to hear from Havana that the venerable Maximo Gomez, who has been doing a large business as a Pure-Minded Patriot, has been raking off a matter of $30,000 per year from the provisional government right along. There has always been a suspicion that Maximo was not in the Patriot business exclusively for his health, but the public revelation of his mercenary proceedings will come with a shock to the gallant liberators whom he dauntlessly led against General Shafter's commissary stores at Guantanamo.

### Mildly Sarcastic.

Chicago News.

Lord Kitchener's gallant little army continues to struggle bravely but ineffectually against the overwhelming numbers of the Boers. It is unfortunate that there is no trustworthy census of the Boer forces. But as the English in the Transvaal are about 200,000 strong and as the Boers largely outnumber them whenever they come together, it is evident that the fighting population of South Africa has been greatly underestimated. The official dispatches indicate that there are at least 1,000,000 Boers in arms.

### Greatest of All Consolidations.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The purchase of the Southern Pacific railroad by the Union Pacific syndicate, with the allied interests, gives the purchasers not only a line from ocean to ocean under one management, but almost a monopoly of the railroad business of the whole Pacific coast, a monopoly which will become virtually absolute if the syndicate carries out its reported intention of securing the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe line also. These are days of gigantic railroad enterprises, but this is the greatest of them all.

### Cost of the New Army.

Springfield Republican.

Chairman Hull of the house committee on military affairs would not be disposed to exaggerate the cost of maintaining the United States army under the bill about to become a law. His estimate, therefore, of from $112,000,000 to $114,000,000 for the first year is of interest. He is optimistic enough to say that later on the cost may drop to $100,000,000 or below, but, of course, the future will determine that question. Our own opinion is that the army will cost more than $114,000,000 before it will cost less. The American soldier is the most expensive one in the world. In 1899 the French army of 616,000 men (peace basis) cost about $130,000,000, and that included the expense of military service in the French dependencies. Our own army of but 100,000 men is to cost about $114,000,000 at the start, and no one knows how much later on.

## EARNING AN OPPORTUNITY.

### Success Achieved by Thorough Preparation for It.

New York Tribune.

An anecdote concerning the late Senator Davis which is going the rounds of the press, and which bears the marks of truth, contains a lesson which is well worth attention. It is given in the form of a narrative by Senator Davis of the way in which he became chairman of the foreign relations committee of the senate, a position which he filled with rare ability, and in which his usefulness to the country would certainly have continued in increasing measure but for the misfortune of his untimely death.

It seems that years before he went to the senate, when he was practicing law in St. Paul, he formed the habit of pursuing some special study during the evenings at home. He never spent these evening hours over his ordinary business, making it a rule never to carry a law book home with him. But he cared little or nothing for society, and during the long evenings he busied himself with reading and research along such lines as happened to attract him. By chance he became interested in the study of international law. Having once made a start in it, he became profoundly interested and delved as deeply as he could. When he had exhausted the works in the English language on the subject he took up those in French and Italian. He did not suppose that this study was ever going to be of practical value to him, but he pursued it because he came to love it and because the knowledge and insight which it gave him were themselves sufficient rewards. When he went to the senate he was assigned to a place on the foreign relations committee, and a few years later, the republicans obtaining control, the question of filling the chairmanship arose. Mr. Davis was not the senior republican on the committee, but by this time his wide knowledge of international law had so impressed itself upon his associates that, with the graceful and generous insistence of the senator who by custom would have become chairman, and the ready acquiescence of his other colleagues, the place was given to him. How well his training had fitted him for it, and how well he was able to use all that he knew, are matters of common knowledge.

It is not uncommon to describe the successes of men who achieve greatness as being due to good fortune, to chance opportunity, to circumstances under which any other man of average intelligence and average energy would have been able to gain as much. By such occasional glimpses as this the fatuity of such a philosophy is revealed. Perhaps it is true that sometimes Fortune, in one of her curious freaks, lays hold of a man who has done little or nothing to deserve it and bears him upward and onward to heights which he lacked the strength or the courage to win alone; perhaps there are men who by earnest toil have fitted themselves for opportunities which have not come and which never are to come. But no man has a right to expect the former experience, and no man ought to permit himself to fear the latter. It is safe to expect that opportunity will come to those who are fit for it.

## GOVERNMENT OF CUBA.

Detroit Free Press: The administration is more or less embarrassed by the discovery that the Cubans are taking that free and independent business seriously.

Chicago Post: Of all the excuses for breaking faith with Cuba the "geographical" one is the flimsiest. It deceives no one. Let the advocates of "criminal aggression" come out into the open.

Chicago News: Foreign diplmats generally express the opinion that the United States will establish a protectorate over Cuba in regard to foreign affairs. By whatever name it may be called, it is certain the United States, while willing that Cuba should govern itself, will not permit it to endanger the interests of this country by international complications.

Philadelphia Times: The new idea about Cuba seems to be exactly in line with the British policy in South Africa. If the Boers leave off fighting they are to be allowed a qualified independence under British suzerainty, with the understanding that everything they do is subject to British approval. This does not satisfy the Boers any more than it would satisfy the Cubans.

Baltimore American: Insistence upon a protectorate will be suicidal, impeaching this nation before the world and necessitating a deliberate disregard of a solemn promise, to which we voluntarily pledged our faith. There is but one rule by which our relations to Cuba may be regulated. That is embodied in the concurrent resolution adopted in April, 1898, declaring that Cuba is, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

Chicago Inter Ocean: The government now devising in Cuba will be no friendly state. If it comes to pass, sooner or later, we shall be called on to suppress it, either to keep the island from the hands of a European power or to protect the interests of our own citizens. We have spent American blood and American money once to save Cuba. Will the indecision of our statesmen go so far as to force us to spend them both again.

Boston Herald: It would be better that the Cubans should attempt self-government with assurance of our sincere wish for their success than that they should be prevented by measures that would turn their present respect and confidence into distrust and settled hatred. If they should fail, believing the United States to have acted in good faith and entire friendliness, they would naturally turn to us for succor and be glad to have us take permanent control of their destiny. If we insist upon such control prematurely, we shall have another dependency filled with discontent and the spirit of revolt.

## PERSONAL POINTERS.

Africa seems to be the only quarter of the world now in which a battle can have an old-fashioned mortality list.

By an enabling act of the legislature the school children of New Hampshire are to decide by their votes in June next what shall be the state flower.

Thomas A. Edison, in a recent interview, declares his belief that electricity should be introduced in the public schools as a study, to rank in importance with spelling and arithmetic.

The only perquisite "Private John" Allen asks, after his long service in congress, is a fish hatchery for his district. John is much too modest for the company he has been keeping.

Prof. A. V. Williams Jackson of Columbia university sailed last week to try to penetrate into Afghanistan by way of the Khyber Pass, which has hitherto been regarded as impossible for travelers.

Judge Ray, one of the New York delegation in congress, is said to be able to smoke a cigar faster and to smoke more cigars in a day than any other congressman. He never neglects an opportunity to smoke.

Senator Butler of North Carolina announced the other day that immediately upon the adjourning of congress he would begin the practice of law in Raleigh, N. C., where he will also look after his newspaper.

Lincoln's birthday, Sunday, February 10, is to be made the occasion of special offerings throughout the Methodist church for the cause of education in the south, through the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education society. A special appeal has been sent to all of the 15,000 ministers of the denomination, urging an observance of the day in the manner indicated.

A bill asking for an appropriation of $50,000 has been introduced in the Indiana legislature, to be added to funds collected by the Indiana Lawton commission, for the purpose of erecting two equestrian statues at the capital city of the state, in memory of General Pleasant A. Hackleman, who was killed early in the civil war, and General Henry W. Lawton, killed in the Philippines.

## TIME TO STOP LOOTING.

### Operations of the Powers in China the Scandal of Civilization.

Chicago Tribune.

It is a relief to see that Field Marshal Count von Waldersee has at last drawn up a plan for the ultimate withdrawal of most of the allied soldiery from China. The record made by some of the allies since the relief of Pekin has been a disgrace to civilization. The so-called punitive expeditions sent out in every direction have looted, burned and murdered in a style more suggestive of red Indians than of civilized nations. Unopposed by armed resistance, these raiding parties have killed large numbers of unarmed Chinese, plundered their homes, committed criminal assault, and left a record of savagery far worse than that of the Boxers. A correspondent of the Cologne Volks Zeitung, writing from China, expresses the hope that these awful conditions may soon cease, adding: "The depravity and bestiality among our troops is enormously on the increase."

The iniquity of the present situation is strongly set forth by Thomas F. Millard in the latest Scribner's. He denounces all this later activity as a criminal campaign of revenge, and his striking recital of facts carries conviction with it. He may be unfair in laying the chief blame upon Count von Waldersee's desire for military glory, but the fact is undeniable that there has been no armed resistance worthy of the name since the relief of Pekin. The so-called military operations of the allies since then have been nothing but looting expeditions with no excuse but the poor one of revenge.

The sooner the troops are withdrawn from China the better it will be for the men and for the honor of the nations to which they belong. It is unfortunate that the frozen condition of the rivers may delay the departure until March. So long as the soldiers remain in China they will continue their plundering and brutality. The Chinese are thoroughly cowed. Mr. Millard tells of a civilian who went alone from town to town twenty miles from the army, wringing tribute from the people, and hauling it away in carts unmolested. After selling his plunder at Tien Tsin he started on another expedition of the same kind. This is a sample of what is going on throughout the region.

Northern China is under a reign of terror, while millions are suffering from hunger or are homeless because of the devastation wrought by the "civilized" soldiers. The only bright spot in the situation is found in the fact that the Americans have not joined in this disreputable work, and that the Japanese and British are also largely free from blame. The rest of the allies have records which they ought to be glad to terminate by withdrawing their forces at the earliest possible moment.

## ALASKA'S BOUNDARY.

### Features of the New Dividing Line Recently Established.

New York Sun.

The so-called provisional boundary between American territory in Alaska and British territory in Yukon has now been surveyed and marked by the American and the Canadian commissioners. Their joint report was handed in at Washington and at Ottawa yesterday.

These gentlemen have simply done their duty as astronomers and topographical engineers. They did not make the boundary. It was made by exchange of notes between the secretary of state of the United States, the Hon. John Hay, and Mr. Reginald Tower, formerly charge d'affaires of the British embassy.

That is to say, the Hon. John Hay wrote a note defining the proposed new boundary and Mr. Reginald Tower, acting in the absence of Lord Pauncefote, wrote a reply formally accepting, in behalf of his government, Mr. Hay's proposition.

Thereupon Mr. Hay professed himself much gratified. The achievement was proclaimed from the ante-rooms of the State department as "another diplomatic triumph for Secretary Hay."

By this simple provisional method of map-making, without consulting the senate, or in any way occasioning trouble to either house of congress, the secretary "temporarily" transferred from American jurisdiction to British jurisdiction, from the American flag to the flag of Great Britain, a piece of territory about equal in area to the state of Rhode Island.

The territory thus temporarily set off to Great Britain had been in our undisputed possession for more than thirty years when Canada set up a claim to it. Our title was derived from Russia by treaty, and it has been steadily asserted by all American authorities, including our representatives on the joint high commission appointed to settle matters in controversy with the Dominion of Canada.

This is technically a modus vivendi, that is to say, a manner of getting along comfortably with Canada by hauling in the American frontier for 100 miles or so; Mr. Hay alone and unaided doing the hauling.

When it was discovered by the State department that the beautifully easy expedient of the secretary failed to excite the enthusiastic admiration of the nation, we were informed that it was only a temporary arrangement, anyway; that our ultimate rights were not surrendered; that the case would be decided later on its merits; and that Mr. Hay had been solicitous in preserving the individual property rights of American settlers thus suddenly and in spite of themselves thrust by him under another flag than their own.

They are undoubtedly grateful.

The view that is taken in Canada of Mr. Hay's temporary and provisional line was strikingly expressed in a dispatch from Ottawa yesterday: "The adoption of this provisional boundary probably means the postponement for many years of the final decision as to the true boundary."

And when the time for the final decision comes Mr. Hay may be gone, but the British flag will be there, and the Canadian government in possession of that part of Alaska.

## A PICAYUNE TAX.

### Annoyance and Time Lost in Stamping Checks.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The senate revenue reduction bill proposes to retain the tax on bank checks, which the house bill proposes to abolish, and it does this so that it can make a total reduction of more than $12,000,000 on beer, tobacco and cigarettes. These are taxes on luxuries that have not even the merit of satisfying an aesthetic or intellectual want of mankind. The tax on bank checks yields about $7,000,000 a year, or say $7,200,000. This means that 360,000,000 2-cent stamps have to be handled by the users of checks. Now, when it is recalled that these stamps have to be ordered and purchased and engraved and printed upon the checks or attached and canceled, not to mention the delays occasioned by neglect to attend to the matter, it does not seem an exaggeration to estimate that on the average ten seconds per stamp are required to go through with all these various processes. If this surmise is correct the aggregate time consumed in one year to provide the government with a paltry $7,000,000 is something stupendous. It would amount to 3,600,000,000 seconds, or 1,000,000 hours, or 114 years. In other words, this is the amount of time lost every year by all those engaged in commercial transactions. And even if the extremely conservative average of five seconds per stamp is used, the aggregate loss of time would be fifty-seven years. Add to this the time wasted by the writer in calculating and inditing all this and the aggregate time consumed by the hundred thousand men, women and children who will devour this paragraph and we have a grand total of dead loss that ought to convince even a dawdling old senate that the tax on bank checks should be repealed instanter.

## OUR TIMBER SUPPLY.

### A Few Feet Left and the Growth Equal to the Consumption.

Cleveland Leader.

It is a pleasant surprise to find that Dr. Gannett, the chief geographer of the United States Geological survey, believes the growth of timber in the United States to exceed the annual consumption. He calculates that there is a natural increase of over 300,000,000,000 feet of timber, board measure, in the United States. Only one-tenth as much is considered to be of the grade of mercantile timber, but that fraction of the whole yearly growth means no less than 30,000,000,000 feet. As the annual cut of timber is somewhere near 26,000,000,000 or 27,000,000,000 feet, board measure, the margin on the right side seems to be big enough to cover a great deal of loss by fires and other sources of waste.

At any rate, the inroads made upon the capital of the American people in the form of forests are small, and the total supply should last for many centuries. If no wood grew and the present rate of consumption were kept up, the supply would last for fifty years.

It appears, therefore, that the natural endowment of the United States in timber is so great that only criminal carelessness and neglect of reasonable measures for the preservation of forest areas and the planting of young trees can bring about a serious lack of timber in any form, at any time. Enormous areas are so ill suited for any other use that there is no reason why they should not grow successive crops of timber forever and supply the needs of a great population for centuries.

The cheerful fact is that we have now not less than 1,380,000,000,000 feet of timber, board measure, standing of merchantable quality, and the annual increment from the natural growth of trees is apparently greater than the lumber demands of any country in the world.

## POLISHED TO A POINT.

Philadelphia Times: "He's remarkable for a rich man's son."

"In what respect?"

"Nobody every threatened to kidnap him when he was a boy."

Detroit Journal: One of the first signs of age in a man is a tendency to wear his whiskers the same way year in and year out.

Boston Transcript: Diner—Come, tell me straight. It is any real advantage to a man who gives you a tip?

Truthful Waiter—Honestly, I can't say that it is, but it is apt to go hard with the gentleman that doesn't tip me.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "The oldest man in the world never was sick, never liked tobacco, but has always been addicted to the use of liquor."

"Wonder how much older he would be if he had used tobacco, too?"

Philadelphia Press: Tess—Mamma was rummaging through the attic today and she found the cradle I used when I was a baby. She was going to throw it out, but I wouldn't let her.

Jess—I should say not. Antiques are all the rage now.

Pittsburg Chronicle: Fond Mamma—There he is, Uncle Charlie, isn't he a fine boy? He's just a year old.

Cactus Charlie (on a visit from his western ranch)—Don't say? A yearlin', eh? Had 'im branded yet?

Somerville Journal: In Chicago people ask: "How much is he worth?" In Cambridge people ask: "How much does he know?" In Boston people ask: "Who are his ancestors?"

Chicago Tribune: "Now, my idea of a statesman," continued Mr. Blunderheels, warming with his subject, "is a man who keeps his ear close to the ground listening to the pulse of the people."

Detroit Free Press: "How that woman glared at you!"

"Yes; I've either bowed to her when I don't know her or else I know her and haven't bowed to her."

Washington Star: "I suppose it would delight you beyond measure if all these mysteries about the habitability of Mars and the conditions on the moon could be finally settled."

"Delight me!" echoed the astronomer. "Certainly not! What would become of the income I derive from the composition and sale of theories on the subject?"

Philadelphia Press: Employer—Now, where have you been all the time? At the matinee, I suppose. Come, confess.

Office Boy (in fear and trembling)—Yes, sir, I was.

Employer—I'm glad to hear it. Perhaps you've picked up a new tune. I was getting tired of that old one you whistle.

## THE STEADFAST ONE.

S. E. Kiser in Chicago Times-Herald.

The world may laugh to see me fall,
But mother won't!
The world may deem me weak or small,
But mother won't!
The crowd may say, if I, some day,
Succeed in winning, that I won
Through luck or in some shameful way
That all but fools and knaves would shun,
But mother won't!

The world may cavil at my song,
But mother won't!
My friends may sneer if I go wrong,
But mother won't!
The child that claims my love and she
That gave me all her heart, one day,
May, some time, lose their faith in me
And mercilessly turn away—
But mother won't!


# Three Days More

Numerous requests from patrons of our juvenile department, have fairly compelled us to continue that advance sale of boys' and children's summer suits.

The weather has been such that a large portion of the ladies were unable to attend—so, Thursday, Friday and Saturday—the exhibit will remain for those who could not attend.

These dainty suits are samples that are made up for inspection for you to choose from, and are made of light weight, wool and washable fabrics, and are choice selections from both foreign and domestic makers. The very cream of fashion and high excellence of manufacture is shown, and even if you don't care to purchase, it will be a treat to see the ideas that are put together for the comfort convenience and elegance of the little folks.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, are positively the last days left for the purchase of these suits.

STORE OPEN UNTIL 9 P. M. SATURDAYS.

**Browning, King & Co.,**

R. S. Wilcox, Manager.

Omaha's Exclusive Clothiers for Men and Boys.