

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George B. Tschuck, 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 February, 1901, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Number of copies, Date, and Total. Rows include various dates from 1 to 28, with a total of 731,100 copies for the month.

Those St. Joseph girls are showing real western grit if nothing else. If we have no storms in March we will have no harvest in July.

The mortality among bills in the legislature is approaching the record mark. Boreas will have to subside pretty soon. Bryan is on his way home from the east.

Between kicks on the weather people can congratulate themselves that March only comes around once a year. Pat Crowe isn't treating the public right. He hasn't written a letter for publication for more than a week.

Hon. John M. Thurston has now attained the limit of legal fame. He has been admitted to practice before the Interior department. The Bluff Tract park is about to become a reality. This consummation of the negotiations will be welcome to the people of the north end.

Naming committees to decide on a day for adjournment is a certain sign that the legislature realizes the approach of the time when pay stops. Among other building permits that have not been taken out in Omaha this spring is one for a residence which was to be the home of a congressman.

Railroad freight rates are receiving some attention from the legislature. A reduction of 10 per cent is not so much, but it will be appreciated by the shippers. Don Carlos takes the trouble to state he has not abdicated. The trouble with Don Carlos is that the Spanish throne has abdicated so far as he is concerned.

A "wee bit o' cow" which brings almost her weight in silver on the auction block is certainly an animal to be proud of. And she was born and bred within fifty mile of Omaha. Up to date the damage done by the March storm has been confined to electrical wires strung on poles. The benefits will be garnered into bins and cribs during the glad harvest time.

King Edward of England, in response to an address of his Omaha subjects, stated that it would be his constant effort to preserve peace. The man who had hold of the bear's tail was also a strenuous advocate of peace. Prof. Moore and his assistants will have a hard time to shake the popular faith in the old-time theory of equinoctial storms. The present evidence is too strong to be brushed aside as mere coincidence.

A South Dakota woman has gone Carrie Nation one better in the matter of effective use of a hatchet. She applied the Kansas weapon to the head of her husband with the result he is now the most peaceable man in South Dakota. About this time of the year the excitable correspondent begins to slaughter cattle through the columns of the eastern press. Given a March storm and the fakir can kill in a day more animals than all the packing houses along the Missouri river.

Iowa stock feeders are again complaining that the bridge arbitrary is shutting them out of the South Omaha market. Here is a chance for the Commercial club to do a little more work. Omaha should have an equal chance with Chicago in her own territory. The report of the hospital service in the Philippines shows that the stories of universal sickness among the soldiers is not true. During January, in spite of the constant active service of the troops in scouting and skirmishing only 7.40 per cent of the men were under the care of the doctors and of these 253 were wounded. There were eighty-three deaths, which included those killed in action, out of a force of 67,415.

BENJAMIN HARRISON. One of the greatest of American citizens, in a period of great men, will be the verdict of his countrymen and of history upon the career of Benjamin Harrison. In every station he distinguished himself. As soldier, statesman and lawyer he achieved eminence and honor. From a humble beginning in life he attained to the highest position in the gift of the American people, illustrating in his career the possibilities of American citizenship.

There is presented elsewhere in our columns the principal facts in the public life of General Harrison. These tell that as a soldier he was intrepid, faithful and capable, as a United States senator able and conscientious, as the chief executive of the nation patriotic, upright and strong. The military record of Benjamin Harrison is less brilliant in achievement than that of some others, but he was never found wanting in the discharge of any duty assigned him. In the national senate he won a leading position and became recognized as a statesman whose opinions and judgment were entitled to great consideration. As president he gave the country a clean, business-like, dignified administration, free from scandals, careful of American interests, conservative and patriotic.

General Harrison had few peers as a lawyer. It has been said of him that he was a lawyer by natural gifts. If not an orator in the highest sense, General Harrison was certainly endowed with exceptional qualities as a speaker. Few men were so successful in holding the attention of an audience and all that he said was worthy of being listened to. His speeches in the presidential canvass of 1888 were remarkable for their sagacity and versatility, supplying campaign material for his party of the greatest value and yet never presenting a point for the attack of the opposition.

The republicanism of Benjamin Harrison was of the most sterling character and his services to his party were of immeasurable value. Both the public and private life of this distinguished man were irreproachable and the United States has never had a more patriotic citizen. His death will be sincerely mourned by all his countrymen.

THE FRICTION AT TIEN TSIN. The difficulty between the British and Russians over a piece of land at Tien Tsin and the decisive action of the British chief of staff at Pekin, is reported to have created some alarm in London. It is not at all probable that anything of a serious nature will directly result from this incident, but it is possible that it may have an unfavorable influence upon the future relations of the British and Russians in China. It is chiefly interesting as showing, as the London papers point out, that the harmony of the nations is liable at any moment to be disturbed.

This has been for some time apparent. As a matter of fact the "harmony of the nations" is to a considerable extent superficial. There is little real confidence between most of them and as to Great Britain and Russia there is probably none at all. British suspicion of every movement or act on the part of Russia has recently been strongly manifested, while Russia's faith in Great Britain has never been very great. Germany is watching both with a more or less suspicious feeling and Japan doubts all of them. Under such circumstances the so-called harmony is certainly liable to be disturbed at any time and it will be surprising if there are not more serious incidents than that at Tien Tsin as a consequence of territorial claims.

Fortunately there is no danger of the United States becoming involved in any difficulty of this character. We have no territory in China to quarrel over and do not want any. We can therefore regard such incidents as that at Tien Tsin with perfect complacency.

IT SHOULD BE TRUE. The statement of a London paper, that the government has modified the unconditional surrender policy in South Africa, should be true. According to that paper Lord Kitchener has been authorized to offer amnesty to the Boers and their leaders, except where treachery is clearly proved, but the Cape rebels will be punished by disfranchisement. It is also said to be contemplated by the British government to aid the Boers in restocking their farms and to offer to establish some kind of civil government as soon as all the commandoes have surrendered.

Such a change of policy has been decided on it shows that common sense has taken the place of passion in British councils and that the efforts of those who have persistently opposed the stern and relentless policy of the government have not been in vain. Great Britain can well afford to show some magnanimity to the Boers; indeed, it would be a very grave blunder not to do so. The Dutch in South Africa will remain there and the question for England is whether they shall be made to feel that they are a subjugated people, whose presence is tolerated but not desired. That eminent British publicist, Mr. James Bryce, recently said that "the memory of bloodshed and of a war held to be unjust will fill an exceptionally tenacious race with a hatred far deeper and more lasting than the irritation which now exists—a hatred which may some day cost our old world on South Africa." Another prominent Englishman has declared that British policy, as it has been proclaimed, "will inevitably lose us the whole of South Africa as a British possession within the lifetime of many men who are now living."

The realization of these predictions is most probable, if the British government adheres to the harsh policy which it announced a year or more ago—a policy not only of subjugation, but also of government of a character that could not fail to keep alive among the conquered people a hatred that, as Mr. Bryce said, might some day cost Great Britain her hold on South Africa. The Boer does not easily forget, but he is

not without gratitude, and those people, while it is natural that they will long remember what they have suffered at the hands of the British, may by just and magnanimous treatment be brought to as loyally submit to British authority as do the majority of the Dutch of Cape Colony. Under a fair and generous policy, that would permit the Boers to participate in government and would most respects place them on a political equality with their kinsmen elsewhere in South Africa, allowing them also the widest opportunity for improving their material and social condition, the hatred engendered by the war would gradually diminish and perhaps in a generation or two entirely disappear. On the other hand a severe and oppressive policy must inevitably operate to intensify Boer hatred and keep alive the spirit of revenge.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the London paper's understanding of the proposed change in British policy is well founded. It would be wise, honorable and there can be no doubt fruitful of beneficial results.

ARISTOCRACY IN THE FEED LOTS. Aristocracy has its advantages in a democratic country after all. Mrs. O'Leary's cow attained lasting fame through the means adopted by the ambitious youth of Ephesus, whose name has been forgotten while his deed is handed forward from generation to generation. But if the O'Leary family source of lactical supply had been placed on the auction block, even after the subsidence of the conflagration she engendered by her fiddle kick at the milk pail, it is doubtful if she had fetched above \$25. Yet here is a cow of whom few people have ever heard, brought to be sold at public auction in South Omaha, and her purchaser, proudly hands over as her price \$1,705, a greater sum than was ever before given for a cow.

What is the difference in these cows? Their breeding. The one was merely a cow; the other has a lineage which can be traced back for many generations. Her strain is pure and her descent direct from bovine kings and queens, and she stands among the herds herself a queen.

The sale itself is a triumph for the western breeder. Years of patient effort on the part of one man made this magnificent animal possible, but it took the awakening of the stock breeders of the west to the vast importance of aristocracy to bring about the condition under which a buyer is willing to invest a fortune in a single animal. Not that fine stock breeding is a new industry, for it is not. Interest in it, however, was never so general nor so keenly alive as at present. Conditions which govern stock raising in the west have changed greatly in a very few years. The settlement of the broad prairies of the central west during the last decade has cut down the open range to a comparatively insignificant area, and has naturally reduced the opportunity for supplying the demand for beef from this source. Feeders, who once depended on the herd owners for their supply of cattle, have found themselves restricted because of the failure of the range to produce the number needed. A new condition has arisen and new methods are required to meet it.

The intelligent farmer has long known the value of well bred stock. He is now applying that knowledge to practical use, and the number of fine bred animals that have been domesticated on western ranches during the last two or three years argues that the time is not far distant when the great bulk of the beef supply from the west will be from herds in whose veins flows the blood of stags and dams whose names are kept high in the herd book.

The range steer will not disappear, at least for many years, but he is no longer the great factor in the packing industry he once was. The demand of the world for better meat has overtaken him, and the aristocrat of the bovine race has him under the hoof.

The English budget shows a prospective deficit for the year of \$270,000,000 and the treasury officials are at their wit's end to discover some method of meeting it. Taxation is already high and British trade is languishing to an extent which would seem to render impossible the imposition of further burdens. When conditions abroad and in the United States are compared the people of this country find every reason to congratulate themselves.

President Hadley of Yale insists that his vision of empire has been incorrectly reported. It is not the trusts which he fears will enthroned an emperor at Washington, but he fears the conscience of the people has gone to sleep. It may take short naps, but always rouses up in time to prevent any dire calamities and the professor can quiet his fears.

The supreme court has passed adversely on the law under which the railway commission exists and the secretaries drew salaries and now the senate has passed a bill repealing the law. If the house passes it and the governor signs it possibly the secretaries will be convinced they are separated from official salaries, but they will insist upon being shown.

What more natural than that Bryan should pay his respects to the Honorable Sixto Lopez? Is not the Honorable Sixto the personal representative of that noble patriot, Aguinaldo, in whose cause Colonel Bryan and his followers are willing to sacrifice Old Glory and everything else Americans hold dear?

Spring shooting may be indulged in this year, the new game law having failed to carry the emergency clause in the house. After this year, however, birds in Nebraska will be enabled to carry on their house-keeping arrangements free from disturbance by hunters who give no thought to posterity.

The senatorial fight at Lincoln, the war in South Africa and the troubles in China must all take a back seat in Nebraska for a time until the annual

controversy over "Wet or dry" is settled at the city and village elections.

When the legislature is finally adjourned and the correspondents wake up and read the many dreams they have had during the session they will wonder how their pipes happened to burn so long and steadily.

No Intangling Alliance. This country will not help Great Britain to take Manchuria away from Russia, nor Russia to take it away from Great Britain.

Reward of Merit. There is a consensus of opinion to the effect that the country can well afford to pay the Hon. Tom Carter a salary of \$3,000 a year for his services as a fair commissioner.

Right Up to the Footlights. What with Senator Morgan defying Great Britain, Pierpont Morgan organizing gigantic trusts and Gunner Morgan the central figure in the Sampson trouble, the program of the legislature is to mount the center of the stage.

An Unsolved Mystery. One of the weirdest mysteries of the world is that, when irresponsible people start out to make trouble, how unerringly accurate is their aim. Responsible people, attempting to do good, cannot hit the mark one hundredth as often.

Shall We Abrogate? Since the British cabinet seems bent on driving us to a formal abrogation of this treaty, we know of no better time to do it than right now. It might be abrogated either by resolution of the senate, approved by the president, or by executive proclamation. The senate has adjourned, the easiest and quickest way to accomplish the desired result would be by presidential proclamation. Doubtless England would be angry, but that is as far as it would go. She has no stomach for anything more than a war of words.

Conduct of Porto Rican Troops. The troops from Porto Rico which took part in the inaugural parade at Lincoln a great deal of praise for their excellent personal appearance and fine military bearing. The discipline in the command was up to the standard of regulars and those in charge of the soldiers, while the Porto Ricans are entitled to the highest praise. The troops were quartered on the top floor of the state, war and naval building, where they conducted themselves with a propriety which was in distinct contrast to the hoodlumism of the tenement-dwelling strikers, who were quartered on the lower floors.

Thrill of the "Tribune." The address of the Hon. Mr. Bryan is forced to see with sorrow his growing subjection to Mammon. Asked to take the stump for Hon. Carter Harrison of Chicago, the colonel refused. "His business interests are so arduous he could not possibly give the time and put money above man. Thus does he admit his slavery to business, his base commercialism. Let the Liberty bell be tolled thirteen times. The Tribune of the People is in his power, counting on the money. For all he cares, Abah may get the time yard and the young man Abasalom go over the hill to the poor house."

Russia and the United States. It is clearly judicious in the State department to announce that it is engaged in no separate negotiations with Great Britain or with any other power as to peace in the Far East. Hitherto it has been the custom to open all doors to the visitor from abroad who expressed an intelligent interest in our methods and machines, and in this way our shops, especially those having to do with the practical application of electricity, have been veritable schools for the European manufacturers, who, although they have always been careful to protect their own industrial secrets as much as possible, have always been allowed and have often been helped to acquire information we had to impart.

"It is fair to ourselves," asks the Review, "to permit this state of affairs to continue any longer?" and it adds, after a reference to the fact that the markets of the world into which our manufacturers have entered: "While a great part of our superiority in certain directions is unquestionably due to well-known agencies, still every manufacturer should have some particular short-cut—some trick of the trade—which he has evolved himself, and which is his own private property. It is time, we think, that the manufacturers awakened to the necessity of keeping their own secrets. Information which may permit their rivals to take advantage of them.

"The natural pride with which we have exhibited, perhaps somewhat boastfully, our industrial establishments to the foreigner should be replaced with a still more natural caution for fear that he may learn something to our disadvantage in the course of his visit." Now, this may be good practical advice, but one can hope that, in the event that, and anyway, it rather goes against the grain. Will not the generous disdain of secrecy that has permitted us to overtake the foreign competitor also serve for keeping up with or passing him?

HOW THE CENTURY OPENS. Foreign Demand for American Goods Makes a New Record. In foreign trade the United States last month set a notable record. It was the banner January in the whole record. The total exports were \$136,000,000, an amount never equaled except by three months in 1900 and one in 1898. The total of manufactured articles exported last month was \$11,000,000, which included a large percentage of finished products in iron and steel. The cotton sent abroad in January was slightly less in quantity than in 1900, but an increase of 22 cents a pound raised the total to \$1,000,000, or \$35,000,000. In the last five months the cotton exports represented \$202,000,000, or an average export price of 9.7 cents a pound, a showing of great encouragement to cotton interests.

Hardly a day goes by when the United States is not the beneficiary of some good fortune. A general survey of the industrial and financial field gives assurance of a prosperous year and a favorable business outlook in the United States. It is a suitable time to reach the conclusion that between good politics and good times. No one doubted that republican success in the national election last year would improve business, but no one foresaw how emphatic and far-reaching the betterment would be. The reality goes far beyond anticipation. At least the world believes in the financial sanity and rectitude of the American people. Tested in two elections, the good faith and good sense of this country have been vindicated. Business men are not always as active in political affairs as they should be. If this indifference rests on the idea that politics is a minor matter with them they ought to compare the present situation with that of five or six years ago and revise their view of the case.

NEED OF AN ARID LAND POLICY.

Government Control and Distribution of the Water Supply. Portland Oregonian. It is time a policy were adopted relative to the so-called arid lands of the United States. These possessions have an important bearing on the progress of the country. They are not to be disposed of as are lands that are in condition for immediate cultivation or valuable for timber or minerals, or by reason of riparian location. They are not in their natural condition capable of yielding a living to civilized man, and are not, therefore, to be offered to settlers with any hope that their acceptance will carry benefits to anybody. Some provision must be made for getting water upon these lands before they will become of practical value.

From the experiments that have been conducted, it appears clear that it is within legitimate functions of the government to provide for the arid lands, for this necessarily implies control of the water sources. In these wide, dry areas, he who controls the water supply has the land at his mercy. It is frequently the practice of the owners to get the tracts on which springs are located, or through which streams flow, by which device they govern the use of vast areas. Those who cannot get to water must leave the country, and the water owners thus hold it all. This small body of revolutionary Americans constituted the government with which President McKinley made his treaty to secure the islands and their people. The people who had advanced so far as to build government had no part of voice in the treaty. They were the helpless victims of a commercial greed which has seized the controlling influences of our government with warrant in a good conscience or the United States had secretly imported arms and ammunition. They suddenly took possession of Honolulu, expelling the lawful government and holding control against subsequent attempts of the natives to recover their natural rights.

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It is useless to go further into this affair to account for the spirit of antagonism manifested in the first territorial legislature of the islands. We will not admit a Chinaman to the United States, and yet one Chinaman is to be appointed to the Chinese and the independent home rule party controls both the senate and the house. When this great government accepted the fruits of despoliation it was freely predicted that the natives would seek to recover their natural rights and that they eventually have to be kept in subjugation by force of arms. An act significant as to their temper appears in their having the secretary of the territory ejected from the islands. They were not satisfied with the representative of President McKinley and reporting the proceedings under apparent authority granted by a territorial act. It was also represented that he was there as a spy for Governor Dole and for the purpose of intimidating members.

But these new citizens are not so servile to executive authority as the general congress has shown itself to be, and the secretary was led out under an exaggerated conception of the constitutional requirement that the three branches of the government must be kept entirely distinct. This is a handsome score for a people whom President McKinley may have had in mind in his inaugural address of four years ago when he warned the country against "a citizenship too ignorant to understand or too vicious to appreciate the great value and beneficence of our institutions and our laws." They show a good disposition to accept our promise of independence under a free government at face value, if not at a premium.

FORGOTTEN LEAF OF HISTORY. Suggestive Precedent for Action on the Isthmus Canal. Louisville Courier-Journal. Under date of July 3, 1852, Louis Napoleon, mounted upon a very high horse and surveying the broken fragments of the union, engaged in what at that time seemed a possible war of extermination, wrote as follows to General Fremont:

"In the actual state of civilization of the world, the prosperity of America cannot be a matter of indifference to Europe. We are desirous that the republic of the United States be powerful and prosperous, and we are not desirous that she should make herself mistress of the Gulf of Mexico, dominate the Antilles and South America, and so be the sole dispenser of the products of the new world. If, on the contrary, Mexico preserves her independence and maintain the integrity of her territory, if a government be established there with the assistance of France, we shall have rendered to the Latin race on the other side of the ocean its strength and prestige; we shall have guaranteed to our colonies and those of Spain; we shall have established our beneficent influence in the center of America, and that influence, in creating immense outlets to our commerce, will procure for us the materials of industry to our industry. Today our military honor, the exigencies of our politics, the interests of our industry and our commerce, demand that we march upon Mexico, plant boldly our flag and establish there a monarchy. If that be not our path with the national sentiment of the country."

Mark how a turn of the whirling of military fortune put this patronizing and braggadocio manifesto to shame and scorn. The government at Washington, once more impacted, had only to intimate to the French emperor that his solicitude for civilization in America was misplaced, that the Latin race on this side of the Atlantic could be trusted to take care of its own interests, the Monroe doctrine would brook no European intrusion, and, least of all, a Franco-Austrian monarchy in Mexico. The Maximilian scheme of Latin pride and European vanity vanished like a soap-bubble. All that Mr. Sevier said to Louis Napoleon with reference to Mexico to the people of the United States are prepared to say to England with respect to the Nicaragua canal.

PERSONAL NOTES. The mikado of Japan is a constant cigarette smoker, but an athlete and a lover of outdoor sports. He introduced football into his country, plays tennis well and is an expert hunter and fisherman. John E. Dubois, a noted lumber dealer of Pennsylvania, has given the Dunham Medical School (homeopathic) of Chicago \$1,000,000 without reservation. Part of the money will be used for a hospital.

The finance committee of the senate of California reported adversely a resolution for the appropriation of \$250,000 for the purchase by the state of the Big Basin Grove of redwoods in Santa Cruz county. The reason given was that the price was "a little high." Among the members of the new Spanish cabinet is the duke of Veragua, who was so infuriated at the ingratitude of the Americans in refusing to pay with a handsome annuity his generosity in allowing his famous ancestor, Christopher Columbus, to discover this country.

Citizens of Cleveland, O., are pleased that the Grand Army of the Republic is in the United States. It is national encampment there next September, but they have learned that they will need at least \$80,000 to pay its expenses, and are realizing that it is already time to begin to hustle to raise the money. Rear Admiral George W. Melville is the possessor of several honors which it is not generally known have been conferred upon him. He has a gold medal voted by congress for Arctic exploration, an LL. D. degree from Georgetown university, M. S. from Columbia and D. E. from the Stevens Institute of Technology.

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HAWAII NOT RECONCILED.

Sentiment of the Islands Displayed in the Territorial Legislature. Detroit Free Press. Considering the manner in which Hawaii became incorporated as a territory of the United States, an associative sympathy on the part of the natives of that island is not to be wondered at. When the entering wedge for American domination was introduced they constituted more than 90 per cent of the population and were living under conditions of their own making, a condition that could be framed in consonance with a constitutional monarchy. The lawful government was overthrown by Americans who, in connivance with abettors in the United States had secretly imported arms and ammunition. They suddenly took possession of Honolulu, expelling the lawful government and holding control against subsequent attempts of the natives to recover their natural rights.

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AMERICA'S GOLDEN HOARD.

Evidence of Increased Business Credit and Prosperity. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The beginning of President McKinley's second term is coincident with the securing of one more "highest" for the gold reserve in the treasury at Washington. The amount of gold in that depository is about \$400,000,000, which is the largest sum ever accumulated in the treasury. Not all of it belongs to the government. About \$275,000,000 is held as security for gold certificates which are outstanding. The banks and the private individuals holding these notes are the owners of this amount of the gold which is in the treasury. The government acts as a trustee for them to this amount.

But considerably over \$200,000,000 of the \$400,000,000 is free from this lien. Under the law of March 14, 1900, commonly known as the gold standard act, a reserve of \$150,000,000 of gold held in the treasury for a redemption fund for greenbacks and Sherman notes outstanding. This reserve takes the place of the \$100,000,000 fund technically required under previous laws. Not only is this \$150,000,000 of gold held in the treasury in excess of the \$275,000,000 of gold certificates, but there is in the neighborhood of \$64,000,000 in addition, which is available for any expenditure which the government makes. This \$64,000,000 is "free" gold.

A few years ago the government had great difficulty in keeping the gold fund for the redemption of greenbacks up anywhere near the \$100,000,000 mark. In two years in the second term of President Cleveland the government had to sell \$282,000,000 of interest-bearing bonds for gold in order to keep the fund up to a point which would prevent the circulation of the American silver dollar. At one time the gold reserve was down to \$41,000,000. At the present time the reserve and the "free" gold is more than five times as great in all. This is it was then, or \$214,000,000 in all. This is a swelling of the gold fund. It marks an advance in business credit and prosperity such as the country has never scored previously in any equal of time. All this transformation has been caused by the "symbol" of the American people in putting the party of industrial growth and financial honesty in power and keeping it in power.

POINTED REMARKS. Indianapolis Press: "I have noticed," said the coroner, "that I tried to hit the man who won't let people back him up, and can always find some one to back him up."

Philadelphia Press: Husband—"Don't forget to wake me at 7 o'clock, as usual, every morning." Wife—"Why, you don't have to go to the office. It's a holiday."

Husband—"I know, but wake me at 7. I want to have the satisfaction of rolling over and going to sleep again."

Catholic Standard: Acum—What is the "symbol" of the American people? Spacetic—Why, it's being cramped for money. "I've got it now. Lend me a V, will you?"

Detroit Journal: The worm turned. "It is not enough," he moaned. "Accordingly, he stood on his head, also, and hung by his toes from the chandelier. Finally, the Worm's baby cut crying and smiled, and at this the Worm desisted."

Pittsburg Chronicle: "That confounded water," complained the "tried to hit me in the jaw when I asked for some apricots." "Excuse me," said the new water, who had been summoned before the proprietor. "I thought the gent said I had a few apricots."