

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: I, E. Rosewater, Editor of the Omaha Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, say that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of January, 1902, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Copies, Total. Rows include Daily Bee (without Sunday), Daily Bee and Sunday, Illustrated Bee, Sunday Bee, Saturday Bee, and Farm and Garden Year.

Total 947,903. Less unsold and returned copies, 9,548. Net total sales, 938,355. Net daily average, 30,097. G. E. TAZBACHUCK, Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of February, 1902. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

At last accounts the postoffice at Fremont was still there. As an admiral in the German navy, Prince Henry should be able to trim his sails to suit the American breeze.

If government by injunction and mandamus will equalize our assessments and reduce tax rates it will shake off some of the prejudice against it. The Charleston exposition is playing in hard luck. Every exposition since the famous Transmississippi at Omaha seems to have been more or less ill-fated.

Inasmuch as the last democratic nominee for congress in this district was an editor, the lawyers insist this year upon reasserting their claim to exclusive law-making privileges.

The more the subject is discussed the plainer it becomes that the Bee made no mistake when it referred to the Bowerstock bill as a land-grabbing rather than a land-slurping bill.

By the way, that glorious plan to reorganize and consolidate all the municipal and local governments in Douglas county under the benevolent direction of an autocracy of five patriots seems to have been lost in the shuffle.

All that potential water power in Nebraska referred to by Governor Savage is still going to waste every day. If it is worth saying, it is worth saying at once. What about a special legislative session to act on the governor's suggestion?

If Chief of Police Donahue proposes to set himself up as a program censor for public dances, he might go the whole length and use his blue pencil on the entertainment menu in high society as well as low society. There are dances and dances.

The great rene act for the Indian supply depot appropriation has been performed on schedule time, although the spectacular features of the coup are not quite up to the standard set in former performances by the same congressional artist.

"Signs multiply," says a popocratic organ, "that the democratic opposition in congress is beginning to recover a grip upon itself and find solid ground." If the opposition encounters so much trouble in getting a grip upon itself, the chances are poor for it getting a grip upon anything else.

Omaha's bank clearings for the past week make a creditable showing, the per cent of increase over the corresponding figures for a year ago being greater than the average for the whole number of clearing house cities. When the clearings make a favorable exhibit we may be sure business conditions are on a substantial footing.

Now that the democratic editors of Nebraska have organized for united action in preparing the democratic map for assimilating the populist party, the populist editors should lose no time in living up to the coming table d'hôte. As political sword-swallowers, the democrats will have to take in the populist blade on the installment plan.

The Real Estate exchange is making practical progress in its fight for a more equitable distribution of the local tax burdens. It is on the right track and should be encouraged to keep at it until the object is accomplished. No one thing would contribute so much toward stimulating the progress and prosperity of the city as the removal of the grievous abuses that have grown up in our tax systems, to such an extent as to discourage investments by either home people or foreign capitalists.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

A good many people in Nebraska never fail to show great concern over every idle and stupid rumor set afloat by fakirs or fools about The Bee and its editor. These credulous people always exhibit great distress over the possible defilement of The Bee from the straight-forward course which it has pursued for more than thirty years in dealing with public men and public questions.

In the campaign of 1900, for example, these solitons friends were very much worried by the report that D. E. Thompson had bought in a controlling interest in The Bee and they conferring to be comforted until positive denial of the canard was made in its columns.

The same credulity was accorded to the story that Bartley had bought the silence of The Bee as he had that of other influential papers as a preliminary to securing a pardon from Governor Foynter.

No sooner had that fake been punctured than came the reported coalition of Thompson and Rosewater as senatorial candidates, when as a matter of fact neither had approached the other for any concert of action.

The latest and most stupid fake of all credits Governor Savage with having entered into an alliance by which The Bee is to support his candidacy for renomination in exchange for the control of the Omaha fire and police commission. The mere fact that The Bee has not seen fit to scurry the governor for announcing his candidacy for a vindication is taken as proof positive that the bargain has been signed and sealed and the goods delivered.

These over-sensitive people do not seem to comprehend that such a deal could not be entertained, much less consummated, without destroying the influence of The Bee. They seem to labor under the impression that The Bee must pound the governor every day in the year in order to prove that it has not changed its mind with regard to his pardon of Bartley. All these apprehensive friends should remember that while The Bee is for sale at regular subscription price, its opinions on public men and measures have never been on the bargain counter.

Members of the Isthmian Canal commission are giving the senate committee on interoceanic canals the reasons for its supplemental report recommending the adoption of the Panama route instead of the one across Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Perhaps it is well to make the inquiry, though the country is pretty well informed as to the general reasons for the commission's action and it can be said that it is very generally approved.

It appears that there was never any question, with a majority of the commission, that from the physical or engineering standpoint the Panama route possessed greater advantages than the one across Nicaragua. This is the statement of Prof. Johnson, a member of the commission, who says that while each route is entirely feasible, when considered strictly and solely from an engineering standpoint the Panama route is preferable. This being conceded and the commercial value of the two routes being about equal, the question of relative cost of construction was the important matter and this was readily disposed of when the Panama Canal company proposed to sell all its property to the United States for a little more than one-third what it had first named as the price. There is still the question whether the company can give a clear title and whether Colombia will make the necessary concessions upon reasonable terms, as to which it is the opinion of Admiral Walker that there will be no difficulty.

Public sentiment, we think there is no doubt, is very largely with the commission and the senate would satisfy the country by passing the Spooner resolution giving authority to the president to proceed with negotiations and select the canal route. The people are quick willing to entrust this duty to President Roosevelt.

Signs of Oriental Progress. The reception given a week ago by the dowager empress and emperor of China to the ladies and children of the diplomatic corps is spoken of in the report of the incident as the most revolutionary event since the return of the court to Peking. It appears that the empress, who is the actual ruler, was in a most contrite mood, expressing profound regret for the mistakes of the past and promising that China would abandon the policy of isolation and adopt the best features of western life. This notable innovation, following other departures from the traditional exclusiveness of Chinese royalty, shows the extent of the awakening that has come as the result of the course of the powers toward China and gives promise of a new era for that great empire, from which it may reasonably be expected that not only China but the civilized world will derive benefit.

Another sign of progress is seen in the proposal said to be under consideration to employ able foreign advisers and give them sufficient power to make their views effective in bringing Chinese government business up to the standard of the times in the most advanced countries. This is understood to have been suggested and urged by the successor of the late Li Hung Chang, who appears to be a statesman of broad and progressive ideas with an intelligent appreciation of the advantages which his country may derive from the adoption of foreign methods in government and business. The example of Japan in this respect has made a strong impression upon the more enlightened and progressive Chinese statesmen and there is a growing tendency to do as Japan has done in putting herself in accord with western civilization.

The United States having been so largely instrumental in preserving the

INTEGRITY OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

Integrity of the Chinese empire, the signs of progress there are especially gratifying to the American people, whose feeling regarding China is not prompted and controlled wholly by commercial considerations.

Another menace to the American sugar and tobacco industries comes from the Philippines. The commission, in its tariff bill, provided for a reduction of 50 per cent from the Dingley duties, which was regarded as liberal. But it appears that this is not satisfactory to the sugar and tobacco producers of the archipelago, who ask that the reduction be made 75 per cent, some of the sugar growers wanting free trade.

The production of sugar in the Philippines amounts to about 175,000 or 200,000 tons annually, while that of tobacco is very large. Both industries would undoubtedly be very much stimulated if the tariff reduction asked for should be given them.

In his statement before the senate committee a few days ago Governor Taft said that at present the commission's principal reason for asking a reduction is sentimental. He thought such a concession would be beneficial in our dealings with the people of the Philippines. "If we can go back to them," he said, "and say that congress has recognized them in this way they will appreciate the discrimination in their favor. Such a course on the part of congress would be a great aid in giving them assurance of the friendly feeling of the American people." This is also the view of Acting Governor Wright. It would be interesting to know, however, to what extent the natives are engaged in these industries and whether they are not chiefly in the hands of foreigners—British, Spaniards and others. The probability is that no great number of Filipinos are connected with the sugar and tobacco interests except as laborers and if such is the case the reduction of the duties asked for would have no great sentimental effect.

The bill that passed the house and is now in the senate imposes the full Dingley rates on imports from the Philippines. Some modification of that measure may be expedient, but we are confident that public opinion would not approve a 75 per cent reduction. The plea that it would have an excellent political effect, though made on high authority, should not weigh against the possible injury to our home industries from this added competition.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX SHIRKING. The paramount issue before the American people today is tax reform. The problem of taxation so adjusted as to distribute the burdens as far as possible in equal proportions upon all classes of property is being discussed in every legislative and by every municipal body. The consensus of opinion based upon past experience everywhere is that the burdens of taxation have been shifted from personal property to real property. This is perfectly natural. Real estate cannot be concealed, while personal property in various forms is readily covered up and omitted from the assessors' lists. The systematic evasion of personal taxes is as pronounced in New York and Chicago as it is in Omaha. The statutes of the various states are practically uniform in regard to the classification of personal property for taxing purposes.

Personal property is not presumed to consist merely of merchandise, live stock, household furniture, personal ornaments and movable commodities of value, but it also includes money, debts due from solvent parties, whether on account, contract, note, bond or mortgage. It includes debts and obligations for the payment of money due or owing to persons residing within the state, however secured or wherever such securities may be held. While the taxpayer is entitled to deduct from the assessment of his personal property the just debts owing by him, it does not contemplate or permit such deduction on account of any debt or liability incurred for the purpose of evading taxation. Yet this practice is very common with moneyed men whose incomes are derived from interest procured on loans.

A comparison of the assessed valuation of personal property in Omaha for the year 1901 with the assessed valuation of previous years, going back as far as 1870, show conclusively the systematic evasion of personal property taxes and the wholesale perjury to which the owners of taxable securities resort in order to avoid their due share of the public burdens. While real estate assessments in Omaha during those years show a gradual increase, excepting during the years following the financial panic of 1893 and in the drought years of 1894 and 1895, the aggregate of personal property valuations are almost stationary, when as a matter of common notoriety personal property in Omaha has increased by many millions within the past twenty years.

When the Omaha Real Estate exchange concludes its commendable effort to compel an equitable assessment of the franchised corporations it will find a very promising field in the personal property taxshirkers.

The attorney general will, upon invitation from the county attorney, assist in the prosecution of the indictment brought by the grand jury charging Treasurer Meserve with embezzlement of interest money collected on state school funds. This is in conformity with the precedent set in the Bartley case, in which the attorney general participated to look after the state's interest.

An interesting point that seems to have been overlooked in the vital statistics for France, about which a vigorous discussion is raging over the manifest decrease in the birth rate, is that while the marriages computed for each 10,000 inhabitants have remained about the same in number and the births de-

REPUBLICAN FAVORITES APPEAR.

Weeping Water Republicans: E. M. Folger, Judge Rochester of this paper for governor, and then away down the list a mile or two comes the name of Joe Bartley, followed by Ezra P. Savage, who is last.

Frequently called: Candidates for governor are frequently mentioned nowadays and they are all South Platte men. What's the matter with the South Platte republicans uniting on a man from our section of the state? We are certainly entitled to the nomination once in eight or ten years anyway.

Burwell Tribune (rep.): The republicans of the Sixth district would be little less than ignominious if the first water if they did not nominate Joseph Kinkaid for congress this fall. At the request of the party he carried the banner twice when defeat was certain; now that there is a chance for victory, he is certainly entitled to it.

Julius Kinkaid: News comes from Norfolk that Julius Kinkaid, of this paper for his friends who mention his name in connection with the nomination for governor. There is not a man in this part of Nebraska the Sun would rather support for the place than Judge Robertson. The judge is not made as a matter of fact, but he has plenty of grey matter in the cranial cavity. He is intellectually and morally fitted by nature and experience for the governor's chair.

Crete Vidette (rep.): The Vidette is pleased to state that Peter Younger of Fillmore county has announced himself as a candidate for congress. He and his friends are anxious to have a "good field" to select from and no county can put forth a better candidate. Local pride, personal friendship and political life make it incumbent on the Vidette to support J. D. Pope so long as he is a candidate. But it is the opinion should prevail among the delegates that Mr. Pope could not be elected and that Mr. Younger or some other worthy republican could be. We should be ready to sacrifice our first choice and defer to the consensus of opinion of the convention. Fillmore county can advocate the claims of Mr. Younger without criticism.

Tekamah Journal: The World-Herald of Sunday gave pictures of a few men in each party prominently mentioned as possible nominees for governor. Among the number was W. G. Sears of this county. While Mr. Sears is not a candidate for the nomination, his party and friends in this county should be honored that one of their number should be selected as a possible choice of the republicans of the state. Mr. Sears is becoming in this state, as he has been for some years in Burlington county, one of the strongest men in his party. Should he be selected for governor he would fill that position with the strength of character, firmness, ability and unquestioned integrity that has characterized his administration in all his positions he has been called upon to fill.

Beatrice Express: Among those prominently mentioned as available candidates for congress from this, the Fourth district, and whose names are likely to go before the next republican congressional convention is the brilliant H. Sloan of Geneva, Fillmore county. Mr. Sloan is a prominent lawyer of this locality and is good congressional timber. He made an enviable record as state senator, and has been active in republican state politics for many years. It is true that the old Fourth district should come to the front. In point of intelligent population, progress, wealth and resources, it stands second to none, and should take its place among the progressive republican districts of the state. We believe it is ripe for the change and the mantle of power cannot afford to do so for the meager salaries paid. Of course there are good men who will make the sacrifice in money for the honor and power that go with the positions, but it is got fair to ask them to do so. There is an office that pays a decent living. Men holding high and responsible positions in the state must live like foremen and bookkeepers or spend more than their salaries. An expensive mansion has been furnished for the governor. It was built for a man whose income was probably not less than \$50,000 a year. The governor receives \$2,500. How can he maintain himself in such a residence? Only by locking it all up except the kitchen, dining room and a couple of bedrooms. The rest is not heated, lighted and kept clean for the amount of the salary. The state treasurer receives \$2,500 per annum and the bond required by the state costs him \$3,000 and we all demand that he be honest. How is he going to do it? Somebody solve the problem.

PERSONAL NOTES. A New York critic says that Mrs. Patrick Campbell is certain to be "wore fewer hats than any reasonable woman should," especially as the English actress is "like a prairie-well laid out, but of monotonous fatness."

Thomas Hitchcock, who has stirred up so much criticism in New York through his declining to give up his seat in the senate, is a man of wealth and culture and was known for many years as a financial writer over the pseudonym of "Matthew Marshall."

President Roosevelt will be the principal speaker at the public installation of President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia university on April 19. He was at one time a student in the Columbia law school and received a degree of LL. D. from the university in 1890.

Senator Quay is a great friend of the Indians. When he was quite ill a few weeks ago the Kickapoo Indians held a council and summoned their medicine men. There was a great powwow, with the beating of drums and waving of arms in order that the Great Spirit might not carry off Big Chief Quay.

No less than 700 separate photographs of the emperor of Germany are extant, says a Philadelphia photographer. He is the most photographed man alive and in his pictures he always looks tall, though as a matter of fact he is a little fellow of five feet seven. There are over 300 photographs of the king of England.

Emperor William will present Rome, Italy, with a bronze statue of Goethe. In his letter to the mayor of Rome the emperor says: "May this image of Goethe, under the blue sky where blooms the orange tree of which he sang, be a lasting pledge of the sincere sympathy uniting Germany and myself to Italy."

Russell Sage employs a "bouncer" nowadays—a giant who stands within reach of everyone admitted to the aged millionaire's private office. The other day a man while talking to Mr. Sage reached for his hip pocket. The bouncer had him in an iron grip in about a second. The man was only coming for a handkerchief.

Governor Taft of the Philippines gets \$20,000 and each of his four assistants \$15,000, while there are twenty-five other officials who draw from \$4,000 to \$15,000 a year. In all there are 4,000 employees, not quite half of whom are Americans. The salary roll runs up over \$3,000,000, of which over two-thirds goes to the Americans. It must be borne in mind, however, that the cost of living is very high.

RESERVE AS A FINANCIER.

York Republican: It is well known that J. B. Meserve was a man of very moderate means when he went into the treasurer's office, and he is rated now, the Republican is told, as a capitalist. The question is, how?

Schuyler Sun (rep.): The more the case is investigated the more the evidence shows that ex-State Treasurer Meserve manipulated the interest of that \$60,000 deposited in the South Omaha bank to his own advantage. The outlook doesn't appear any too bright for the financier with the long whiskers.

Beatrice Democrat: The republican party is throwing up a whole lot of dust by telling how the late Treasurer Meserve was stealing \$1,500, but if he should be convicted and the governor should extend the usual official courtesies, he would only have to serve in the pen four hours and twenty-seven minutes to pay the penalty at the same rate as Bartley did.

Butte Gazette (rep.): Ex-State Treasurer Meserve has been indicted for swiping interest on state funds that should have been turned into the public treasury. It is now in order for our populist editors to remodel some of their Bartley literature so as to make it applicable to the case of Meserve. They will hold up their heads in horror and yell about "political persecution."

Sidney Republican: The republicans do not seem to have it all their own way in the matter of defaulting treasurers. Now it is the fusion ex-state treasurer, John R. Butler, who has been indicted by the grand jury of Douglas county on the charge of embezzlement of money belonging to the state school fund. It is beginning to look as though the state treasurer's office was a graduating or preparatory school for penitentiary birds.

Lincoln City Eagle (rep.): There is one thing certain and that is that there is a large amount of circumstantial evidence against ex-State Treasurer Meserve. He always kept on hand a large amount of uninvested school money during his tenure of office. The charge was about \$50,000, the minimum balance being \$100,000. His books fail to show a credit to the state for interest on any of this money. His books do show, however, that at the end of each year of his term he credited interest with a greater or less sum of money on state funds.

Lincoln Post (pop.): It is unfortunate that Mr. Meserve is going to question jurisdiction in his indictment. We say unfortunately because it will probably prevent a fair trial for the right of the state treasurer to handle school funds as he sees fit so long as he has them on hand when required. The Post is of the opinion that "on hand" does not mean a jiffy vault at the state house any more than it means the treasurer's pockets, and having that opinion, it would like to see the matter settled by legislation. He has had the proper care and security of school funds.

Wayne Herald (rep.): Meserve has no very easy job on hand to laugh away the charge of embezzling state funds that was preferred against him by the Douglas county prosecuting attorney after the grand jury had indicted him as state treasurer. His friends call it a political matter. Maybe it was. However, it is a matter of record that the indictment names three reputable witnesses who are connected with the South Omaha bank to whom the money was loaned, and it is fair to presume these men regard their dominion as their friends only second to their statements under oath.

Hartington Herald (rep.): It is clearly to be seen since the indictment of Mr. Meserve, populist ex-treasurer, that the republican mantle fall upon the shoulders of the reform press. Republican editors at almost to a man have repeatedly refused to condone or palliate the crookedness of republican officials, but instead have denounced crookedness and corruption when not at his heels. It has shown it hideous head. Fusion editors, however, have had down to the defense of crooked fusion officials whatever their fault or offense. They defended Holcomb and Porter and Cornell and that thrifty guy who preceded them as inspector, and now J. B. Meserve is the recipient of their bows.

BITES OF WASHINGTON LIFE. Etchings of People and Things at the National Capital. If there is strenuous life in Washington it does not obtrude itself. "The all-prevailing spirit of things visible," says a Philadelphia Scribner, "is one of calm, cheerfulness, of indifference to the flight of time. The present is everywhere dominant, with its most agreeable face to the front. There is nothing to remind one that yesterday had heaped pledges upon today, and that today is mortgaging the freedom of tomorrow. It is as if a community of 300,000 souls, carved out of the midst of an overcast Yankee land, had shaken off its more serious obligations and voted itself a daily half holiday.

This suggestion of leisure and recreation is intended to give the width of the high-spirited and the multitude of open spaces, inviting floods of sunshine and pure air. Wherever a street and an avenue intersect, they celebrate their meeting by at least a triangular parklet or two. If not with a more formal circle or square, grass, trees and shrubbery reveal everywhere the joyous life. Vines spread themselves warily over any wall that does not repel their advances, till a commonplace dwelling becomes a castle of living green with arrow-woods and a sallyport. Look in any direction and you have a vista fringed in summer with luxuriant verdure; in winter with a delicate gray framework of leafless boughs."

Secretary Shaw, the new head of the Treasury department, was standing on the White House stairs talking to a number of newspaper correspondents, when Secretary Root passed on his way to the cabinet meeting, which Mr. Shaw was to attend when he had finished his discourse on finance. The secretary of war rubbed his eyes rather wildly at the secretary of the treasury, glared at the carefully dressed man who had been in his way and rushed by without speaking. Mr. Shaw evidently saw some humor in the situation.

"I'm glad to see you speaking now and earning an honest living. The last time I saw you I damaged my temper and nearly lost my soul."

The ex-speaker assumed an oratorical tone and spoke to all who would listen. "It was at the capitol, and I had a pair of shoes that just suited me—easy and comfortable, yet looked stylish enough for an afternoon tea, and Joe, that rascal, charged me 10 cents for a shine. I think he put some polish on them, for they never recovered their luster, and I could never wear them again. You stick to that shovel, Joe. It doesn't offer the temptations that come in your way as a shoe-shiner."

"Uncle" Joe Cannon was "drilling" up to the Treasury department the other day when

ONE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES PASSED HIM IN A CARRIAGE DRIVEN BY A COACHMAN AND ORNAMENTED WITH A FOOTMAN.

"Pretty prosperous for a \$4,500 job," mused the chairman of the committee on appropriations. "Guess I'll look into it."

Mr. Cannon discovered that the government owned the horses and carriage and paid for the feed. The coachman was on the payroll as a messenger in the Treasury department and the footman was a laborer in the department. It had been supposed by members of congress that the horses were employed in hauling supplies to the department. Investigation showed that many of the assistant secretaries who are not furnished with horses and carriages by congress had resorted to the same means as the treasury official to provide themselves with free equipages. Now the assistant secretaries have a good prospect of again becoming patrons of the street car lines.

Senator Dolliver is the silver-tongued orator of Iowa, says a New York World letter. He campaigns from one end of the state to the other before elections. Recently in the republican cloakroom he told of his visit to a little town in the western part of the state last fall. He found that an old friend of his who lived in the county was there in jail, having been chosen to stay in a cell rather than pay a tax he considered unjust and illegal. Dolliver's friend wrote to the sheriff: "Dear Sheriff: It will be a great favor if you will let me out of jail for two hours, so I can hear my friend Dolliver make a speech."

"The sheriff was a good fellow," said Mr. Dolliver. He wrote his consent on the back of the note and then added these words: "The remainder of your punishment is remitted."

In a recent paper on "The Force of Executive Sessions," Senator Mason thus described his first experience behind closed doors: "A senator from New England arose and solemnly and earnestly moved that we go into executive session. The bells all over the senate end of the capitol rang and made their music in my ears. The chief page clapped his hands three times and the pages all rushed from our sacred presence. Amid the ringing of bells and rushing of feet the people were all moved out, the doors were closed and we were alone!

"Thereupon the senator who had moved the executive session struck a match in the usual way and lit his cigar, 'and daily informing his neighbor that it was the only one he had. He then moved that John Smith be confirmed in his \$700 postoffice in Podunk. The vice president of the United States said, 'Without objection it is so ordered.' A motion for adjournment was carried. In one moment my dream was broken."

TIPS FOR ARCHITECTS. Things to Be Considered in Constructing a Fire Proof Building. Insurance Engineering. Let us enumerate some of the things an architect must take into account if he is constructing a fireproof building. He should know how the underwriters' schedule differentiates in skeleton construction for cast-iron or wrought-iron columns; he should know the underwriters' penalties for deficiency in thickness of walls; he should know how underwriters regard stone or veneered walls, particularly carved or ornamented walls of that description; he should know the penalty in insurance rate for bricks or mortar of poor quality; he should know how the underwriters treat unprotected columns and beams; he should know how rates go up for large areas; he should be aware of the additions made by underwriters for wood partitions, plaster on wooden studs and laths; he should have knowledge regarding scores of other things. We have enumerated only a very few of the items that are taken into account in insurance rating, and by no means the most important ones. The construction of floors, floor arches, elevator shafts, stairways, well-holes, skylights, lighting systems, trim, etc., all mean something—and some of them mean a great deal when the insurance rate is being figured. In all of these matters the owner of the premises is practically at the mercy of the architect.

POINTED PLEASANTRIES. Washington Star: "What would life be without its illusions?" said the gentle lady. "For my part I am not going to quit being young."

"Yes," said Miss Cayenne, "I have observed that that is one of life's commonest illusions."

Pittsburg Chronicle: "I notice a tendency to lay this cold weather at the door of the groundhog," remarked a farmer. "Or at the mouth of his burrow," added Mr. Snags; "but that's all right! Gopher the woodchuck!"

Chicago Tribune: "It's all in knowing how," said the blue-nosed cab driver, as "Dr." Dowle went by in his elegant carriage.

"Partly that," said the grinning, slapping himself to warm his hands, "but more in making other people think you know how."

Baltimore American: "If I had an engagement with you," said the clerk, "it would be gone."

And he gently placed a date with a peach. "Circle anywhere where the pretty cashier, 'It would be like this.'"

And she laid the date beside the canned lobster.

New York Times: The busy doctor was hurrying down the street when he was stopped by a man noted for his ability to "side-walk" advertisements.

"I am thoroughly worn out and sick and tired. What ought I to take?" asked the doctor.

"Take a cab," replied the unfeeling doctor.

Brooklyn Life: Kingsley—You've been to those literary clubs and metaphysical things for two or three years now, and what have you done? "I have amounted to Mrs. Kingsley—Don't I know everybody?"

WHEN JIM DIED. Rochester Post-Express. When Jim died, all his neighbors came from four or five miles around to see him. "Pears like to me they held him just as dead as Mother did an' me; for they all came in to see."

Once more on his calm, pale face, an' a solemn sort of smile on their eyes, for I seen 'em in 'em tears. A-tripin' down their cheeks—maybe 'th' first for years—"

When Jim died, 'th' birds stopped singin' in 'th' trees. For they missed him, you know; an' 'th' golden-belted ones, 'th' blue-birds, 'th' meadowlark, 'th' whippoorwill, 'th' clover, 'th' clover, 'th' clover. An' 'th' kilties in 'th' bushes an' 'th' ferns. Seemed ever to be callin' that he'd never come again—"

When Jim died, Jim was a curious chap—not like other boys; He had his own way of takin' life, with his life. An' 'th' crows; he loved birds an' flowers, an' 'th' flowers. He never much as trod on a timid violet. That's what I should say, 'th' grass. Like music of a flute. The birds sang to him, but their voices now are—"

Since Jim died, 'pears like to me Mother ain't so s'ry. As she used to be, there's a sadness in her eye. An' 'th' birds; that sort of 'cute me to 'th' heart; An' 'th' voice. Jim Had allus been her pet since he was born; Had allus been her pet since he was born; Better than the rest, he was her boy; she don't complain. Mother don't but then she's never been the same. Since Jim died.