

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 25th day of September, A. D. 1903.

M. E. HUNGAZE, Notary Public.

From now on the spellbinders should focus their oratory on the stay-at-homes.

Too many of the consumption cures are like the flying machines that don't fly.

When Blackburn becomes postmaster the Mercer frank will have right-of-way.

The weather man seems to have taken judicial notice of the fact that the price of coal has not yet come down.

Russian newspaper men must have a hard time of it, but the press censor must be still more sorely overworked.

Perhaps it is on Jim Hill's benevolent institution theory that the railroads of Nebraska think they should be exempt from taxation.

Colonel Bryan will have to get back at Grover Cleveland by appearing as the star orator at several college commencements next spring.

South Omaha is having its city ordinances printed. Will Omaha ever reach the point where a compiled volume of its city ordinances will be accessible?

That Nicaragua volcano should be more discreet. The Central American revolutionists claim a monopoly on all outbreaks in that part of the continent.

The description of the scene at St. Paul's, where King Edward attended Sunday, as "more brilliant than devotional," reads like an ordinary Easter service.

The convention that nominated Mercer did not think it necessary to adopt a platform for him to run on. Boodie, brass and Baldwinism take the place of platform.

Now is the time for the committees of all the political parties to give out statements and figures demonstrating that all of them will carry the election triumpantly.

An Omaha pastor objects to the acquisition of religion by revival. He is evidently convinced that what comes easy is not likely to stay long, whether it is religion or riches.

If the Colombians cannot stop fighting long enough to hold an election and attend to the Panama canal matter, it may become necessary for the United States to go ahead without waiting for them.

The ordinance bureau of the navy alone wants an appropriation of over \$18,000,000 for its use for the next fiscal year. If Uncle Sam has any money to burn the ordinance bureau will help him convert it into smoke.

When the republican factions in Wisconsin early in the campaign buried the hatchet they left the handle sticking out, and as usual in such cases everybody has now made a grab for it and the scrimmage has been revived.

The rapidity with which our old friend Wu Ting Fang is going up the official ladder in his native country suggests that when he revisits us in this country he will be so densely frescoed with yellow jackets and peacock feathers that we may not recognize him.

Ward and precinct assessors are to be chosen at the coming election, but since the decision of the Nebraska supreme court giving equalizing boards plenary power to raise valuations and add omitted items, the importance of the assessorship has fallen several degrees on the political thermometer.

UNFRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES.

All advices coming from Canada agree that there is a growing feeling of unfriendliness in that country toward the United States. This sentiment is due chiefly if not entirely to commercial considerations. According to a correspondent at Toronto of the Springfield, Mass., Republican, the general feeling in the province of Ontario is almost bitter against America and he says that taking the Dominion as a whole the feeling cannot be described as in the least cordial. The Canadians are represented as looking upon the United States as a supremely selfish nation, from which Canada can hope for no kindly consideration whatever. This correspondent says that even the free traders among the Canadians have come to despair of securing closer commercial relations and those who at one time regarded political union as inevitable and perhaps desirable, have become a negligible quantity. All idea of possible annexation, according to this correspondent, which was largely entertained a few years ago, has been abandoned, so that nobody now ventures to talk of a political union between the Dominion and the United States.

While for a time it was doubtful which of several political schemes—annexation to the United States, independence, or continued maintenance of the imperial connection—would be successful, now annexation is no longer thought of and independence is not seriously advocated by anyone of political influence. The whole tendency of feeling is now concentrated upon the goal of a strong Canadian nationality within the British empire. It is said that the refusal of the United States to grant trade reciprocity has deepened the feeling of Canadians that, after all their true policy was to get along without the American market and seek closer commercial relations abroad, while strengthening their already existing bond with Great Britain.

All intelligent Americans realize that the question of relations between the Dominion and the United States is a very practical and serious one, not to be treated inconsiderately or flippantly. As near neighbors it is manifestly desirable that the two countries shall be on friendly terms. To this end both should be willing to make fair and equitable concessions. Canada, however, has not thus far shown a disposition to do this. On the contrary, she has almost uniformly been exacting in her demands and even as to her treaty obligations she has not been honest. In the matter of trade reciprocity she has always asked more than she has been willing to concede. While asking free trade for her national products she has insisted upon discriminating in her tariff in favor of British manufacturers. In behalf of a preposterous and indefensible claim to American territory in Alaska Canada blocked all negotiations for a settlement of the questions in issue between that country and the United States.

The American people do not desire to annex Canada. Some of our statesmen have urged that this must inevitably come, but there is very little sentiment in favor of it. Our people, however, do earnestly desire to cultivate friendly relations with the Dominion and they are now as always willing to do this on a fair and equitable basis. Regrettable as is the growing feeling of hostility toward the United States in the Dominion we shall make no undue sacrifice to stay it and shall not fear to meet any future contingency that may grow out of it.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE TRUSTS.

The report that President Roosevelt has already begun the preparation of his message to congress and that the dominant topic will be trusts is well authenticated and otherwise credible. The supreme question before the people is how to deal with these organizations, using the word trusts to cover great corporations of interstate or wider scope which operate in restraint of trade and competition, and the courageous character of the president is enough by itself, even if there were no specific evidence of his intentions, to raise expectation that he will grapple strenuously with the subject. This is as it should be. The people themselves have forced this issue to the forefront. The political parties have not sought it in any serious sense. The democratic party as a political organization has no remedial proposition. A part of it has revived the old democratic tariff theory as a cure for trusts, but another large part of it contradicts the efficacy of such a plan. Thinking men of all parties understand perfectly well that it is futile and doubt the sincerity with which it is proposed. The democratic party gives forth no sure sign that it will do anything else in this matter than follow its tradition and chronic disposition simply to oppose any positive policy that may be proposed. The populist party is hardly to be reckoned as a factor. However the politicians may seek to evade and postpone the issue, the American people unmistakably require that it be aggressively and seriously dealt with, and President Roosevelt will perform an inestimable service if he can bring this about. That he was resolved to be the representative of the people rather than the instrument of mere political expediency, was disclosed by the tenor of his public utterances at the very threshold of the campaign. In New England and in the south and later in the interrupted tour through the west, the president boldly challenged the attention of the country to the great question of the hour and stated cogently the evils with which it is necessary that the government shall resolutely grapple. His very attitude was an implied pledge that so far as he can give direction the government shall act decisively.

What has happened in the meantime has given strong impetus to the move-

THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE GREAT COAL STRIKE ARE AN OBJECT LESSON.

The developments of the great coal strike are an object lesson. The moment is opportune in every way for a genuine attempt. It will be resisted with tremendous energy and by all the influences at the command of the corporations, but the people demand it and the president can be assured of their sympathy and approval.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PACKERS' MERGER.

The announcement that arrangements have been consummated for financing the packers' merger through the National City bank of New York is to be taken as strong evidence of the opinion in high circles of business that the late financial crisis has been substantially passed. On no other theory would such a stupendous flotation be attempted at this juncture, an undertaking which in capitalization and scope of operations is the second largest in the world. It is known that it was ready to be launched two months or more ago, but that pressure upon the speculative market caused postponement.

The object of this gigantic merger is largely speculative. No doubt important economies in the management of the great industry, or congeries of industries, as a result of the consolidation, will enter largely into the calculations of the managers. No doubt they can in the merger carry on the business in many respects at less expense than they could as independent concerns. But the real basis of the increased profits to support the enormously expanded capitalization proposed rests in the monopoly which it is really the aim to establish.

At least the full value of the plants and business will continue to be firmly held or controlled by the present owners through the bonds and prior lien securities, but in the merger scheme the speculative and investing public will be fed by an enormous emission of stocks in addition. Unless the promoters felt confident that the speculative spirit was still potent and that the general money market would be such as not to restrict it, they would certainly refrain from exploiting their scheme at this moment. There has in fact lately been no more significant fact regarding the general financial situation than this undertaking of the great packers and great bankers.

DECENCY IN THE SADDLE.

According to Mercer's campaign manager, national issues cut no figure in the present campaign. The only issue dividing the people of Omaha is, he insists, whether the corrupt city machine that has dominated the republican party in the past shall rule it in the future. Mercer represents the decent and incorruptible elements, while his opponents represent the lawless and vicious elements. Mercer's triumph in the primaries has put decency in the saddle, where it is bound to stay if Mercer is re-elected. This is the substance of the creed put out by Mercer to rally the 30,000 voters of this district to his support for a sixth term.

In conceding that national issues cut no figure in the fight Mercer admits that it is purely a desperate personal scramble on his part to retain the lucrative salary and emoluments which he has been drawing the last ten years.

Declaring that decency leaped into the saddle when he carried the primaries is an insult to the intelligence of the community.

Did decency get into the saddle when gangs of Iowa railroad graders were mustered in and voted for Mercer on perjured affidavits?

Did decency leap into the saddle when the beer kegs were tapped for Mercer in a dozen resorts where his forces were corralled and chalked off on primary day?

Was decency placed in the saddle by the restoration in the interest of Mercer of Captain Haze, who was laid off from the police force for indecency?

Is decency to be kept in the saddle by Mercer's sham bombardment of the gamblers and saloon keepers while he is making the rounds of all the resorts both in Omaha and South Omaha?

Is it not about time for Mercer to stop his masquerade?

OUT OF DEBT TO FOREIGNERS.

That portion of the report of the register of the United States treasury which shows that the government is practically out of debt to foreigners presents a significant fact that is worthy of more than passing attention. It appears that out of a total of some \$783,000,000 of government bonds, all but about \$3,500,000 are held in this country, so that the government can be said to have no foreign debt. The bonds issued during the Spanish war were all at home and largely by small investors. Indeed, the great majority of bonds are owned by small American investors, for the funds of the insurance and banking companies which hold bonds belonging to their depositors and policy holders.

"It is easily within memory," remarks the Philadelphia Ledger, "when the country was in constant turmoil concerning the effect of current events upon the foreign bond holder. It was not unusual to accuse the administration of subservience to Lombard street and those who counseled an enlightened financial and economic policy were thought to be influenced by British gold. The foreign bondholder has ceased to be a factor in governmental affairs and the only anxiety we have now about gold is to prevent its excessive accumulation in the United States treasury." It should be needless to point out that this result has been produced, within the brief period of a few years, by our unparalleled prosperity. Five or six years ago hundreds of millions of our government bonds were held by foreigners and during that period they have been steadily flowing back to this country as the financial ability of our people to take them grew. It is very striking evidence of the rapid and substantially progress that has been made and cer-

tainly suggests that the conditions which have produced it should not be disturbed.

Of course there is still a large amount of the bonds and securities of corporations held abroad, of which there is no accurate data, but even as to these the foreign indebtedness of the country is undoubtedly very much less than it was a few years ago and is steadily decreasing. At all events, we have become practically independent of foreign bondholders and financiers and are in a position to loan to Europe, as has been done within the past year, notably in the case of the last British war loan. It is a situation that ought to be highly gratifying to all Americans and which they should desire and seek to maintain.

The decision of the Illinois supreme court in the Chicago Union Traction company case is more far-reaching than would appear at first blush. The decision affirms the power of the city of Chicago, and incidentally, of all other cities in Illinois, to compel street railway companies, whether operated under one or under several charters, to furnish transfer tickets to passengers over the entire system without extra charge. The more imperative feature of the decision is, however, the declaration that the city council has the authority to establish a reasonable maximum fare on street railways and also the right to compel street railway companies to keep that portion of the streets covered by its tracks and right-of-way clean at its own expense. The precedent established by the supreme court of Illinois will doubtless have great weight with courts of other states in the interpretation of the rights of municipal corporations to regulate the operation of street railways and traffic carried on by them.

Such a thing as circulating garbled and forged public documents to bolster up his candidacy does not trouble our Dave's India rubber conscience any more than did that sworn certificate of his campaign expenses in 1900 and the expense incurred for capturing the primary this year. A man who would certify under oath that he expended only \$125 himself and through all his friends in a campaign in which he could not have expended less than \$3,000, and a man who can certify under oath that he expended only \$95 in a primary election in which more than \$1,000 was distributed in a single ward in the city of Omaha, would not mind circulating spurious public documents under his congressional frank, with beautiful portraits of himself, and electrifying cards in which he credits himself with securing \$1,845,000 for appropriations for the Omaha public building, when everybody knows that \$1,200,000 of that amount had been appropriated before he entered congress.

As a sworn foe of monopolies and trusts the bogus appropriation claimant cuts a mighty big swath. Having secured his nomination by the coercive and persuasive power of the allied railroad corporations, the Standard Oil trust, the meat packing trust and several minor combines, he now tries to pass as a congressional trust-smasher by circulating spurious and trust speeches through the mails under his congressional frank. In the face of such a showing how can anybody doubt that all the law-abiding citizens and all the honest people of this district are for Mercer and all the criminal elements, hoodlums and legpullers are ferminat him?

King Edward in his address to his guardsmen expresses regrets that though proud of having in his youth served in their ranks, he never had an opportunity to see active service. President Roosevelt would not have to express such regrets, if he were addressing a representation of his former Rough Riders.

COMRADES ONCE MORE.

Spain and the United States are shaking friendly hands again and the past is apparently forgotten. Perhaps, after all, Spain is realizing even if it wouldn't acknowledge it, that the war was for it a blessing in disguise.

TROUBLING THE MERCER FOR MONEY.

Business continues good with the Iowa bandit, whose industry for his money has been the cause of widespread comment and much official attention. Yesterday he got one train in Montana and got away.

ENOUGH TO GO AROUND.

Cleveland Leader. Good authorities estimate the apple crop this year at about 15,000,000 barrels more than the yield of 1901. That is a difference of probably ten billion apples or about 135 apples for every man, woman and child in the country in excess of the scanty supply last year. It is not to be necessary to nibble very close to the cores for the next few months.

THE PUBLIC PAY THE PRICE.

New York World. After having for five months bitterly fought of course in the public interest a demand for a 20 per cent increase in mining wages, which could not have added more than 15 cents a ton to the cost of coal, President Baer announces an increase of 50 cents upon prices already far above those of the spring of 1903. This is not inconsistent. It really does make a difference who has to pay!

DEMOCRATIC INCONSISTENCY.

Portland Oregonian. Ex-Secretary Olney's reference to the attitude of the anthracite coal operators as a dreadful example of the disregard for the law of the land has been brought to the attention of the public by the fact that the same man would have more effect if the chief offender among the operators, President Baer of the Reading railroad, had not so recently gloried in his original, unadulterated, steadfast democracy. And there is J. P. Morgan, another rock-ribbed democrat, and with still larger, if less direct, control than President Baer; and James J. Hill, another uncompromising democrat, doing his best to justify the coal trust as the railroad trust in their policy of controlling the market and the fallacy thereof against all comers. Of course Mr. Olney could not have had them in mind. These illustrious democrats ought to get together.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN.

Leigh World: J. J. McCarthy has the ability, the disposition and the opportunity to secure substantial advantages for our people and he should be elected to represent them.

Bancroft Blade: Mr. McCarthy's valuable experience in legislative matters qualifies him for that higher service to his state, to which he will undoubtedly be called by the result of next election.

O'Neill Frontier: The splendid campaign of Moses P. Kinkaid has removed all doubt as to the redemption of the Sixth congressional district; it is now simply a question of the size of his majority.

Buton Advertiser-News: There is no pretense about Judge Norris; he is straightforward and honest and makes no promise that he does not intend to fulfill, or that he is incapable of fulfilling.

Bayard Transcript: A vote for Judge Kinkaid is not only a vote for efficient representation in congress of the Big Sixth district, but a vote for the most judicious administration of President Roosevelt.

Kimball Observer: We believe M. P. Kinkaid will be elected to congress from the big Sixth district and feel confident he will represent western Nebraska with credit at Washington. He is making a clean and winning campaign.

Mullen Tribune: Judge Kinkaid is certainly making hundreds of friends during his campaign through the south part of the district. Not a week passes that he does not have laurels heaped upon him by democratic organs. He is on the enemy's territory.

Nebraska City Press: E. J. Burckett is in a position, by reason of his four years' experience in congress, to be of much more service to the people of this district than any new member would be. Mr. Burckett will be returned this fall by an increased majority.

Beatrice Express: Mr. Stark has not been a conspicuous success as a congressman and there is not one reason why he should be re-elected. There are many reasons why Hinshaw should be elected. One reason is that he would be able to do a good deal for the district and the state.

Kearney Hub: The collapse of Stark in the fourth congressional district is not to be wondered at. The people of that district are finally sane enough to make a comparison between Hinshaw and Stark, and that settles it. The glamour surrounding Stark disappeared as soon as the comparison became critical.

St. Edward Sun: From reports that we receive on every hand the republican cause didle for congress, J. H. McCarthy, in meeting with splendid success. Every republican should see to it that they are at the polls to vote for him, for what can a congressman do for the district that is not in touch with the administration? Think about this.

Buton Advertiser-News: There is no pretense about Judge Norris, he is an able speaker, who holds the attention of an audience from a start to a finish, not by noise or bluster, but by sound sense, logic and familiarity with his subject. In congress he will assert his command with respect for attention, because when he speaks he will have something to say.

Leigh World: Congressman E. J. Burckett of the First congressional district of Nebraska has been making a few campaign speeches himself this fall, and their good effect is felt wherever he has been. It is said that Mr. Burckett takes pleasure in calling Mr. Bryan down and he does it in such an effective manner that Mr. Bryan has not the nerve to call the turn on him.

Mullen Tribune: No one needs have any fear that Judge Kinkaid does not fully understand the needs of this country in the matter of our range fences. Much of his time during the campaign has been spent in the hills country looking it up and the Tribune can vouch for his best efforts being used to the satisfaction of our people. He is a friend to the west and we must not lose sight of that fact.

Pawnee Press: Too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of the grave matter to result from spathy. It is all well enough to be contented for the present, but there is a future that must be looked after. If a democratic congress should result from a careless feeling of spathy on the part of republicans the people of the country would be in a bad way. Let us see to it that we do not fall, therefore, to vote for E. J. Burckett for congress and the entire republican ticket.

Valentine Republican: Those who appreciate the good times this country has enjoyed during the last five years and desire that this prosperity continue will not vote for republican candidates and do all they can to assist republicans to office this fall. Especially is this true of those who desire to see President Roosevelt re-elected and that his hands may be upheld in carrying out the policies that are so beneficial to the prosperity of the nation, they should vote for M. P. Kinkaid and other republican congressional candidates who will aid him in the good work.

St. Paul Republican: Since the nomination of M. P. Kinkaid for congress he has taken great interest in the establishment and largely through his efforts in his district the four routes in this county have been established—one running east from St. Libory, one north, one east and one west from St. Paul. These have all been examined and recommended and the examination "was assured" that they will be in operation in a short time. If a republican nominee can do so much for our district, when we have a republican congressman we may expect the Big Sixth to be in the union.

Lynch Journal: There is a great deal of talk being made about the soldiers voting as a bloc and a friend for congress. While M. P. Kinkaid is not an old soldier it is well known that he is a friend of the old soldiers and has done many things for them that proved his friendship. If elected to congress he will be in a position to help them and also the state and district, being in touch with the administration, while P. H. Barry would not be. The republicans are not trying to slander Mr. Barry, as many fusionists are doing with Kinkaid, but we do not think it to the best advantage of our country to elect the gentleman and for that reason are supporting Judge Kinkaid, who has been and is our friend.

Niobrara Pioneer: The Pioneer supports John J. McCarthy for congress because he would voice principles that are dear to the voter. When John B. Robinson was a candidate for judge of this district he was supported by The Pioneer. Had he been a candidate for congress he could not have had that aid, unless it was solely to bring the republican party to a recognition of evil-doing in Washington and for the present sufficiently recognized. On the tariff, as at present understood, Mr. Robinson and The Pioneer are far apart. Mr. McCarthy would aid the administration in carrying out its policies. As the Dakota County Record very aptly says, "we want him to do something; we want something done; that's why McCarthy was nominated."

Wayne Herald: The republican nominee for congress, J. J. McCarthy, is the right man to elect. Thoroughly qualified in every particular, a man of the people and for the people, never swayed by party, but as he sees it, filled with energy, ability, grit and stability, entirely in harmony with the administration, a fact that will greatly aid him in accomplishing much for his district, where his opponent, if elected, would

be able to do naught, an able lawyer, a practical man and one whose honesty can not be questioned, he is peculiarly fitted for the position, being the peer of any congressional candidate in Nebraska. He is from our neighboring country, where he is most highly respected by all, and it is particularly to the interest of our city and county that he be given a handsome majority here. For once at least every republican should do his duty.

Decatur Herald: Hon. J. J. McCarthy, republican candidate for congress of the Third Nebraska district, addressed the voters of Decatur predicting at the opera house Tuesday evening the turnout was good and the meeting enthusiastic. Mr. McCarthy while not much of an orator made a good impression upon the voters present by the indisputable facts presented. He is having grand success in his canvass and we predict his election by a rousing majority.

Humboldt Leader: Some nearby fusion papers are fighting Congressman Burkett's re-election on the theory that rural free delivery is a detriment to the people. It would be well in this connection to bear in mind that the congressman has aided in the establishment of routes only where they are asked for by the inhabitants. And we have yet to learn of an instance where the patrons of such routes are disappointed. When you hear such complaints quietly investigate, and more than likely you will discover a case of "sour grapes."

Friend Telegram: When Mr. Hinshaw placed a nomination for congress in the Fourth district and began his campaign he noticed that the district was very deficient in rural mail routes. He saw that the rural portions of this district were a great ways behind in the delivery of mail to the farmer who resides in this district. He did not want to see the country left behind to be elected or not, but set to work securing that which he and every one else knew they were justly entitled to and at this time, with the co-operation of Senator Dietrich, has established, and those about to be established, more rural routes than Mr. Stark and been able to secure for the people of this district during the last four years. Mr. Hinshaw is giving the people of the Fourth congressional district an object lesson of his working qualities. He has charged his opponent with neglect in this particular, but has set himself to work securing what he knew they greatly needed. There are other things in this district where Mr. Hinshaw can evince his splendid working qualities.

PERSONAL NOTES.

An Ohio man named Kohl has named his infant daughter Anthea, and he thinks she is a jewel.

Siam's heir apparent is having so good a time in this country that the old man proposes to take a turn over here on his own account.

A Chicago man has been arrested for beating his wife with a coal shovel. Coal shovels have been idle of late and bound to get into mischief.

Judge Charles C. Jones of Montezuma, N. Y., is probably the most ponderous jurist in the United States. He is six feet one inch and weighs 416 pounds.

Secretary Moody wants four more new battleships. He thinks the only way to increase the navy and make it more formidable is to construct more fighting boats.

Colonel Jim Shoddy of Kansas, who announced himself as a candidate for the United States senate, now says his candidacy was a joke, and all Kansas says it was a good one.

Mr. Carnegie has a canny Scotch way of putting facts before the English people, particularly when they relate to the fact that the United States is now the greatest industrial factor in the world.

The crown prince of Siam refuses to go behind the scenes at the New York theater. He has read that the chorus girl of today is young and pretty, but does not care to run the risk of disillusion.

Mayor Schmitz of San Francisco says poker is not a gambling game, but one of skill. There is reason to believe that Mr. Schmitz could be elected mayor in many other cities should he choose to leave San Francisco.

M. Niasim Behar, founder of the technical schools of the Alliance Israelite Universelle in the Orient, has just arrived in Boston to begin his New England tour, after which he will go west to interest the American Jews in the work of the alliance.

It is said of Lord Kitchener that three months of social hunting, country house visits and fulsome adulation from English society have marked a baneful transformation in this erstwhile stoic. He has lost much of his sternness, has stopped refusing invitations for teas, dinners and luncheons and, indeed, has surrendered completely to social influences.

J. C. Bancroft Davis, at 80 years of age, resigns his place as reporter of the United States supreme court, which he has held for nineteen years. He is a native of Worcester. His father was the noted "Honest John" Davis, who was representative in congress, twice governor of Massachusetts and United States senator for fourteen years, and his mother was a sister of George Bancroft, the historian.

Ex-Congressman James Hamilton Lewis of Washington has removed to Chicago. He has been chosen first vice president and general counsel of the Great Western Beet Sugar company. The Great Western is the trust that lately paid Lewis the \$100,000 fee for devising a method of organization and sustaining the same in the federal courts at Chicago, by which the trust was exempted from liability to the stockholders of the constituent companies.

SEVERAL NEW SPELLS.

Government Bureau Filing Up Perplexities for Americans.

New York Sun. The Board on Geographical Names is still piling up perplexities for Americans, who derive their spelling of place names from the time-honored usage of all English-speaking people as shown in their textbooks, atlases, newspapers and geographical writings. A publication of the Navy department recently mentioned the leading French seaport Marseilles and had the temerity to use this accepted spelling, whereupon the department was politely notified by the board that it should be written "Marselle."

One of the rules of the board, taken from the plan for geographic orthography adopted earlier by the Royal Geographical society, is that the spellings of prominent place names long authorized as good usage shall not be changed. Yet time and again it has adopted spellings that are not employed by geographers, general writers or map makers using the English language. Such decisions are directly opposed to good and long established usage.

What sense or reason is there for insisting that the capital of Cuba shall appear in government books and maps as "Habana"? Not one man in fifty knows that the Spaniards pronounce "b" approximately as we do "h." One of the written rules of geographic societies is that reformed spellings shall convey as nearly as possible the sound of the word as pronounced by the people in whose country the place is situated. Does "Habana" convey to our people any idea of the correct pronunciation, or is it simply misleading?

It took an act of congress to annul the decision of the board that "Puerto Rico" should replace "Puerto Rico," which had been good English for three centuries. If the board were not eccentric, it might wield a wide and desirable influence, for most of its decisions are commendable. But nobody knows what to expect next. Is there really any danger that the board will attempt to turn "America" into "Amerigo"?

LINES TO A LAUGH.

Philadelphia Press: "Not that time" snorted the pugilist, haughtily, as he dodged the left hook for the jaw. "You don't know me!" "I'm sure you don't," replied his opponent, politely. "That although your name is familiar, your face escapes me for the moment."

Detroit Free Press: Patient (with fractured skull)—How did you get hurt, doctor? Physician—You fell down a manhole and into a cellar full of coals.

Yonkers Statesman: "When I want to borrow a dollar I never go to a friend," he said, as he was leading up to something. "Ah! well!" replied the other, extending his hand, "let us see."

Chicago Tribune: "As to the suggestion that the country's stock of unsold novels be used for fuel in this emergency," observed Mr. W. H. C. "I have a suggestion that the idea is ridiculous. They will not burn. Most of them are rotten."

Chicago Post: She was describing a certain article of dress. "I completely lost my head," she said. "If you are as careless of yourself as that," he returned, "perhaps you would be willing to spare your head."

Detroit Free Press: First Squirrel—My brother has eaten so many apples and hickory nuts that he is getting fat. Second Squirrel—Sort of nutty, eh?

Chicago Post: But can you cook? asked the prosaic young man. "Let me ask you questions up in their proper order," returned the wise girl. "The matter of cooking is not the first to be considered."

Chicago Record-Herald: "What, Maude," he said, "I thought you told me you sat up till nearly morning reading this magazine." "Yes, I did," she answered. "But none of the pages are cut." "You don't cut the pages to read about the corsets and baby food."

THE ANTI-KISSING EDICT.

Baltimore American. Come hither, Dulcinea, let us read the doleful news; Henceforth the chaste of salutes I firmly must refuse, he's a good doctor. Henceforth thy lips as citadels by me shall not be stormed, For of the first words I have thus sternly been informed. The rosy tempting of thy lips hath ever been much judged, But, ah, 'twould never be the same if they were carbolized.

Oh, Dulcinea, fairest one in all Tobasco's bounds, No more shall Don Quixote aid in causing smacking sounds, No more shall he in trembling tones speak softly, "Oh, be mine!"

And now the kiss, I answer hath the thrill of rarest wine, Alas! in countless agony thy Don Quixote squirms, But yet the doctors warn him that a kiss is full of germs!

Nay! Nay! Seek not to lure me on by antiseptic talk, The microbes of kisses may be on preventive balk. Bichloride and dioxide and the toxins For one would think of druggists—never of the lowly maid!

So, hearken, Dulcinea, take, oh take, those lips away! The medicine saccharin are unbounding there they say.