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E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss:
George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of October, 1902, was as follows:

1	30,700	17	31,820
2	30,930	18	31,450
3	31,190	19	30,400
4	30,970	20	32,240
5	29,350	21	32,330
6	31,290	22	31,570
7	30,910	23	31,740
8	31,070	24	32,150
9	31,000	25	31,140
10	31,160	26	29,255
11	32,090	27	31,070
12	29,920	28	31,690
13	31,350	29	31,630
14	31,230	30	32,300
15	31,640	31	31,330
16	32,700		

Total 969,615
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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of October, A. D. 1902.
M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal.) Notary Public.

President Roosevelt is going after bear on his next trip. He usually gets what he goes after.

The Real Estate exchange had better burnish up its old armor and get ready for service on the skirmish line.

The elastic conscience of the candidate will be exhibited again when the sworn returns of election expenses are filed.

With meat prices still up, Mr. Turkey Gobbler need have no fear of being crowded off the Thanksgiving menu.

The International Ax and Tool company may find things very different when the people put the ax to the root of the trust tree.

The boy king of Spain is up against a new cabinet. As long as it is not a revolution that confronts him he may consider himself fortunate.

Secretary Wilson's denial of the story that he will resign from the cabinet is strongly corroborated by his magnificent chrysanthemum exhibits.

Ex-Governor Pattison's presidential boom has accumulated quite a vacuum since the telegraph ticked off the Pennsylvania election returns.

President Diaz has put several baskets of champagne on ice in anticipation of the impending visit of Governor Savage and his staff. On to Mexico.

After looking the returns up one side and down the other for nearly a week Congressman Mercer concludes that the result is binding. Everybody else saw that at a glance.

President Mitchell insists he has no ambition to succeed Samuel Gompers as president of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Mitchell is in no hurry for further honors.

General Toral was anxious to surrender in front of Santiago, but it knocked him silly when the other day he was required by the Spanish government to relate all the circumstances.

The republicans of Iowa in compensation for the election of one democratic congressman, have the consoling reflection that Judge Wade, the successful democrat, voted twice for McKinley.

In the makeup of his police board Governor Savage had a distinct object in view, but the board has failed to deliver the goods. Is it possible the governor was himself the victim of a political bunco game?

It is true that the successor of Colonel Henderson as speaker of the house will not be chosen till a year from next December, but it would be well for everybody now to agree on "Uncle Joe" Cannon for that important place.

It now appears officially that for purposes of taxation the estate of the late John W. Mackay is represented in Great Britain only to the extent of $7,685. It is dollars to doughnuts that when inquisition is made by the tax authorities in this country the bulk of the estate will be found to be, not here, but abroad.

J. Pierpont Morgan is in hard lines. If he does not show up promptly at his office at the usual hour the rumor spreads that he is sick with consequent depression of stocks in Morganized industries. It may be necessary eventually to have hourly bulletins posted, so the public may have constant information that Mr. Morgan is enjoying normal health.

THE STATEHOOD BILL.

At the close of the last session of the senate it was agreed that the bill providing for admission to statehood of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona should be taken up as a special order December 10 and considered until a vote should be reached. A subcommittee of the senate committee on territories is now on the way to visit the territories seeking admission, for the purpose of investigating conditions in them and ascertaining whether there is warrant for their claims to admission. According to reports from Washington the opposition in the senate to giving these territories, particularly New Mexico and Arizona, statehood is likely to be as strong at the coming session as ever. It is said that one ground of objection is that New Mexico and Arizona are largely Mexican in population and that they have not sufficient American population to entitle them to become states with an equal representation in the senate with the older commonwealths of the union. It is also stated that the aim of Senator Beveridge and others is to amend the bill so as to admit Oklahoma and leave the other two territories to wait.

The republican party in its last national platform said: "We favor home rule for and the early admission to statehood of the territories of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma." The conditions in those territories as to population, resources and other requirements are certainly as favorable now to their admission to statehood as two years ago, when the republican party in effect pledged itself to give them early statehood. It is not to be doubted that a majority of western republicans are in favor of making those territories states. The statehood bill was passed by the house of representatives, and the senate ought to concur in that action, which complied with the virtual mandate of the last republican national convention.

POLITICS IN PORTO RICO.

The people of Porto Rico are acquiring a knowledge of politics and are already showing notable aptitude. There are two parties in that interesting island, the republican and the federal, and in the election of November 4 the former was successful. The opposition now charges that the result was obtained by fraud, intimidation and violence, which was countenanced by the insular government, and an appeal is to be made to the Washington authorities to look into the matter.

There is perhaps substantial ground for the allegation of the federal party, at least in part, for it appears that Senator Spooner of Wisconsin has been convinced that there is sufficient evidence in support of the charge to justify him in presenting the matter to the attention of President Roosevelt and asking that an official investigation be made. It is not easy to believe, however, that the American authorities in Porto Rico have countenanced fraud and intimidation, since it is not apparent what could induce them to do so, and they are well aware that such a course would cause them to be summarily dealt with at Washington. At all events there seems to be good reason for an investigation and doubtless it will be ordered. Porto Rico must be assured of fair and free elections.

CONSULAR SERVICE REFORM.

The question of reforming the consular service, so as to divorce it from politics and improve its efficiency and usefulness, must be sooner or later determined and there is no good reason for further delay in the matter on the part of congress. The republican party has always favored reform in this service and it has been steadily improved under republican administrations, but there is needed specific legislation for reorganizing the service and putting it upon a basis that will insure the best attainable results. It may be true, as some assert, that the consular service of the United States compares favorably with that of any other country. It is certainly a fact that there are many capable, conscientious and faithful men in the service. Yet there is no question that it can, as a whole, be improved, and the way to do this is to place it on a strictly business basis, appointing only men who are qualified for the service and retaining in it all who prove themselves efficient and faithful, regardless of their political affiliation.

In its annual report the Civil Service commission gives attention to this matter, urging that to maintain and increase our industrial pre-eminence we ought to have by far the best consular service in the world. "We should have the quickest and most reliable information as to our opportunities, as well as business representatives who are able to improve them. This can only be done by a consular service which is uniformly instructed and alert." The report points out that under our present system of patronage appointments there is little security that the men appointed are qualified for their duties. While in the important positions in Great Britain, Germany and other European countries there are men of the highest capacity and most thorough equipment, there are other positions of which this cannot be said of the men who occupy them. This is particularly true as to many of our consuls in South America and the Orient, few of whom are even acquainted with the language in which they are required to transact much of their business. The commission thinks that it is to the competitive system, as pursued in other parts of the public service, that we must look for the permanent betterment of the consular branch and legislation is urged providing facilities for determining the comparative qualifications of applicants for the consular service by means of open, competitive, nonpartisan examinations.

Bills are pending in congress making provision for the reorganization of the consular service and possibly some action will be taken at the coming session. The administration is favorable to reorganization, the president having urged it in his first message. The commercial interests engaged in foreign trade want it, as shown in repeated petitions to congress. The republican party in its last national platform, as it had done before, declared in favor of the reorganization of the consular service "upon such a basis of appointment and tenure as will render it still more serviceable to the nation's increasing trade." In view of all this it would seem to be the plain duty of congress to enact without unnecessary delay the required legislation.

A PLEA FOR THE TAXPAYER.

Exclusive of taxes levied upon public improvements imposed upon property directly benefited, the taxpayers of Omaha are compelled to contribute annually about $1,500,000 toward the maintenance of municipal government, county and state governments and public schools. This continuous drain constitutes a burden under which not only the home property owners have been ground for years, but which has practically confiscated hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of real estate that has no earning capacity.

It is susceptible of proof that from 5 to 10 per cent of the taxes levied and collected are wasted or squandered upon political sinecures, work shirkers and improvements that should be paid for by individuals benefited instead of being taxed up to property. With prudent management and business methods from $50,000 to $75,000 a year could readily be lopped off from the tax levy without reducing the pay of competent, efficient and faithful employes. The question is, "When will they do it?"

About this time every year there is loud talk about economy and retrenchment, but the new broom that is used vigorously in January is worn out by March and the barnacle supernumeraries are reinstated on full pay to continue for another year. It would seem to us that the time has come for a new departure. Promises of turning over a new leaf are not bankable paper. The taxpayers of Omaha want the new leaf to stay turned twelve months after New Years.

DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN IOWA.

Fusion organs in Nebraska, and, curiously enough, among them some of the most zealous champions of Bryan and his notions, are gleefully emphasizing the democratic gains shown by the Iowa election returns. While the gains in general are hardly sufficient to warrant a very high degree of enthusiasm from any democratic point of view, it is true that there were numerous gains in various parts of the state, especially in the eastern or river districts, in one of which, the Second, Judge Wade was elected to congress. But the fusion organs somehow overlook or are scrupulous not to mention the most significant fact, which is that the Iowa democracy has been able to make gains only on the basis of the repudiation of the Kansas City platform. It is no secret that Judge Wade himself is an uncompromising gold standard man, a point he has never apologized for, but has always gloried in, and that he was among that large body of Iowa democrats who gave their votes and influence against William Jennings Bryan. In other words, the real democratic lesson of the Iowa election is that what Colonel Bryan promptly denounced as "a policy of cowardice," has been endorsed by the rank and file of Iowa democrats.

So far as democratic gains are concerned, there is not now, and there never has been, a genuine republican majority of 80,000 in Iowa on the legitimate historic issues between the old parties. During the fifteen years preceding 1896 the democracy had been built up to a respectable, powerful and hopeful opposition on those issues. The spectacular substitution of Bryanism for historic democratic issues in the platform of that year drove tens of thousands of Iowa democrats out of the party. A very considerable proportion of them permanently joined the republican party, but the large number, while openly or silently repudiating Bryan only waited for signs of returning conservatism in the party to rejoin it. The rejection of the Kansas City platform by the state convention this year was taken by many as such a sign and the returns merely reflect these conditions.

The Iowa democracy as yet is far from having recovered the position from which Bryanism cast it down. It will take more than one state convention to reassure the great body of conservative democrats in Iowa. They are so independent and uncompromising that not only will Bryanism have to be put in its grave, but a tombstone erected and the grass luxuriantly growing over it before they will become again a really formidable opposition.

The restaurant men who sell a bowl of ordinary soup at 10 cents have probably not been favored with copies of the official report of the Iowa State Board of Control, wherein it is related that during the month of October several thousand inmates and employes of the Iowa state institutions were fed three meals per day at an average cost of 5 cents per meal. Previously to the creation of the board there were innumerable complaints, but it appears that under its management so sumptuous is the fare that everybody is satisfied and waxing fat.

The Washington letter writer of the Lincoln Journal, with hindquarters in the saddle and headquarters in the Journal office, is a marvelous mind reader, judging by his latest effusion in which he professes more profound knowledge of the inner feelings of Senator Dietrich and the outer feelings of the republican members of the coming legislature than anybody who has come in contact with the senator or the men who have been elected to make the laws for Nebraska next winter.

The machinists and boiler makers formerly employed in the Union Pacific shops have been enjoined from approaching and talking to the strike breakers either near the picket line or the clothes line, but John N. Baldwin and the railroad lobby have not yet been enjoined from approaching and talking to the members-elect of the legislature on a street car line, on a railroad train or in the dark recesses of the state capitol.

President Roosevelt will be back again in Washington in time to eat Thanksgiving dinner at the White House. He couldn't possibly miss that forty-pound bird that is always fattened annually in Rhode Island expressly for the presidential table.

The police commission case may be expected to bob up serenely for the steenth time in the supreme court within the next two weeks. In the language of Judge Sullivan, "All things have an end except that police commission string."

The builder of Shamrock III, it is now joyously announced from England, has just discovered that there has been a fundamental error in the construction of all the challengers. But the whole world discovered that long ago.

Live On and Hope.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

Young army officers need not feel discouraged because their marriages are not approved up the line. They will not always be young.

A Killing Combination.

Washington Post.

We are going to introduce the trolley into the Philippines. It might not be a bad idea to send over a few of the Pittsfield motormen.

A Welcome Invasion.

New York World.

The "American invasion" of England includes a scheme for docks and warehouses in Manchester for the sale of American cotton to English spinners. And the invaded take kindly to the invasion.

Long-Distance Signaling.

Philadelphia Press.

The increasing length of freight trains on American railroads has made it difficult for the trainmen to communicate with each other. Hence the announcement of a western road that it will supply its men with field glasses and a heliograph outfit. Another road thinks that such an outfit will be useless in bad weather and on curves and it proposes the long distance telephone. Here is an opportunity for an inventor to make his fortune by discovering something to meet this difficulty.

Well Fixed for Winter.

New York Tribune.

With a cash balance in the treasury of almost $300,000,000 Uncle Sam may look forward to the coming winter with composure, notwithstanding that his fur-bearing animals of all sorts are taking on thick overcoats, betokening that the season is to be a severe one. But with so much money ahead and coal down to its customary prices he ought to ride out its rigors without the least injury to his constitution and with little invasion of his comfort.

Puzzling Vagaries of Justice.

Baltimore American.

Justice may well stand puzzled and mystified before the vagaries of law. A woman in Maine was lately fined $100 for shooting a moose because she had no license, the fact that she shot to save her own life from the animal's attacks not being taken into the question at all. Such absurdities in the enforcement of laws are enough to bring disrepute on all communities which tolerate such ignorant and ridiculous officers, and in the interest of common sense, if nothing else, such cases should be stoutly contested.

Passing of Populism.

Chicago Chronicle (dem.).

Looking a little further into the rise and fall of the populistic free silver party in the far west we find the record to date to have been about as follows:

	Bryan's maj. 1896.	Bryan's maj. 1900.	Results 1902.
Colorado	134,882	29,661	Rep.
Idaho	16,868	2,216	Rep.
Kansas	12,269	Rep.	Rep.
Montana	22,043	11,773	Rep.
Nebraska	13,576	Rep.	Rep.
Nevada	6,439	2,498	1,000
South Dakota	183	Rep.	Rep.
Utah	51,033	Rep.	Rep.
Washington	12,493	Rep.	Rep.
Wyoming	583	Rep.	Rep.

There is not much prospect that the republican-populist fraternity from these states will ever be able to control the democratic party again, but the record above established is one which should be carefully preserved for future reference.

Pass Up the Soothing Syrup.

Boston Transcript.

Now someone will please pass the various bronchial affection cures around to the "spellbinders," for there is a period of rest before them in which they will have an opportunity to apply healing balms to tender spots while they think the past campaign over. The successful ones, those who "won out," will perhaps have such pleasant reflections that they will not be mindful of a physical discomfort, but those others who did not quite reach the goal they talked for will be very conscious of tired throats to which they will like to apply outward remedies like gargles and sprays. As a balm for their wounded hearts or spirits, or wherever may be the seat of disappointment, we can only recommend the time-honored one of "trying again." The supply of that is inexhaustible and it is just as effectual as it ever was.

Plea for Ship Subsidies.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The appeal of the commissioner of navigation for ship subsidies, like that of the advocates of this policy in congress, falls rather flat in the face of his own report. Not only does he show a heavy increase in the number of steel merchant vessels under the American flag and an increase in the percentage of goods carried under the flag, but he regards the transatlantic "merger," as it should be regarded, as an American institution. He considers this "merger" as the most important step toward the establishment of American influence on the seas which has been taken since steel and iron vessels displaced wooden sailing vessels. This is undoubtedly true. And as the merger vessels will be run in the interest of American railways and American industries it is a matter of absolutely no importance whether or not they fly the American flag—especially if that thrill has to be purchased by a gift of some $9,000,000 annually to Mr. Morgan and his associates.

Stronger Than His Party

Portland Oregonian (rep.).

The lesson of the election is that President Roosevelt is not only the leader of his party, but that he is stronger than his party. Democratic leaders like United States Senator Jones confess this when they say: "The general belief in the rectitude, sincerity and courage of President Roosevelt is aiding the republicans much more than they will ever know." But for this impressive personality of President Roosevelt, Odell certainly would not have been re-elected governor of New York and the republicans would have lost control of the house of representatives. So relaxed has the grip of the republican party upon the country become that it is doubtful if any of its leaders save Roosevelt could lead it to sure victory in 1904. It is easy to attribute the victory of Tuesday to business prosperity, but under equally favorable industrial conditions we were beaten in the off year of 1882, just twenty years ago. In 1880, as in 1900, the republicans swept the country. The president then elected was shot in 1881, and Vice President Arthur succeeded Garfield in September, even as Vice President Roosevelt succeeded the murdered McKinley. The November state elections of 1881, like those of November, 1901, showed little change.

The business prosperity of the country showed no decline in 1882, and for this prosperity the republican party claimed and obtained large credit. In spite of this prosperity the elections of 1882 went against the republicans. The house elected in 1880 had a republican majority of twenty; that elected in 1882 had a democratic plurality of seventy-eight. Grover Cleveland was elected governor of New York by nearly 200,000 plurality, a result largely due to the bitter factional quarrel between the Blaine and anti-Blaine republicans. This New York feud did not explain the fact that the democrats carried Ohio or that General Butler was elected governor of Massachusetts over the republican candidate. Business prosperity did not give the republicans victory in 1882, and business prosperity would not save them today if Roosevelt were not today the leader of his party and because of his personality stronger than his party. President Arthur in 1882 was not the leader of his party; he was heir to a fierce party feud that it was impossible to quiet, and because he was not and could not have been the inspiring leader of his party, the republicans were severely defeated in New York, Ohio and Massachusetts, lost the lower house of congress to the democrats and two years later were defeated in the presidential campaign.

There has been a rise in prices bringing increased cost of living; there has been the prolonged coal strike, and when we add to this the fact that the republican party has been long enough in power since 1897 to wear out its welcome, it is remarkable that the democracy did not inflict upon it in November, 1902, a defeat as severe as that suffered in November, 1882. The chief, if not the only, reason we escaped defeat was the universal popular confidence felt in President Roosevelt and the strong desire to hold up his hands within and without congress. There was a time when but for the prompt appeal and intervention of President Roosevelt the great strike would have proceeded to disastrous conclusion. For such a termination the republican party would have been arraigned by democratic demagogues; the republican president would have been denounced as utterly without sympathy for the wageworkers of the country. This illogical and unjust indictment would have been successful.

The president with manly frankness trusted the people; took them into his confidence against the warnings of professional politicians, and he has succeeded in saving himself and his party when the ordinary political leaders would have wrecked the whole outfit. Governor Odell, who was in full sympathy with the president's views, owes his re-election to this fact. The plutocratic republicans in New York City in large numbers either voted for Coler or did not vote at all, and Odell was saved from defeat by the farmers, the mechanics and wageworkers of the country counties of the Empire state. Odell was helped something by the fact that David B. Hill, whose puppet Coler would have been as governor, is hopelessly distrusted by such independent democratic papers as the New York Post and the Brooklyn Eagle. A considerable portion of the independent democratic vote was given to Odell because of the odiousness of Hill. The popular determination to "stand by the president" has won the election. By his singular mixture of political shrewdness and moral courage the president has firmly intrenched himself in the hearts of the people. He has succeeded, as Jackson and Lincoln succeeded, by his union of simplicity of purpose and manner to courage in action. It is easy to say that a president with a strict sense of official dignity would not have stooped from it so far as unofficially to interfere in the settlement of the strike, but the president "stooped to conquer." The first fruit of his conquest is the victory of Tuesday, and its ultimate laurels he will win and wear in 1904.

VOTING MACHINES MOVING WEST.

Several Tried at Milwaukee with Satisfactory Results.

When the polls close on election day every citizen who has performed his duty wants to know the result with the least possible delay. The present ballot system, as well as the method of counting, are not designed to shorten anxiety. Both well serve to strain anxiety to the limit. Even under the most favorable auspices six to eight hours are required to complete a count of ballots such as were cast in Nebraska last Tuesday. Should the contest be a close one the limit of public anxiety is measured by the slowest counters. Compared with the promptness and accuracy of the voting machines in several eastern states the system in vogue in the west is as much of a back number as a prairie schooner. Hundreds of voting machines were employed in New York state last week, in some places for the fourth time, and in every instance worked satisfactorily. The first trial of them in the middle west was at Milwaukee, where seven were put in operation at the last election.

"The voting machines proved a perfect success," reports the Milwaukee Sentinel. "Seven machines were used, one in each of the six precincts of the Thirteenth ward, and one in the Sixth precinct of the Sixth ward, and all gave such complete satisfaction to voters and election officials alike that interest in them almost exceeded the interest in the election. Rapidity and accuracy were the chief characteristics noted by the election officials, and the ease with which the voting proceeded during the day led all who watched the machines work to express themselves in terms of the highest praise.

"The first returns were received four minutes after 7 o'clock from the Fifth precinct of the Thirteenth ward. The return was the quickest ever made to the central station by any precinct in the city in any election ever held in the history of the state.

"In some of the booths votes were registered in from nine seconds to half a minute, and in but few instances were voters within the curtain of the machine longer than a full minute. Although it was expected that some voters would demand the paper ballot, none objected to the machines, the majority appearing to be greatly pleased with their operation. The city possesses fifteen of the machines, but eight were not used, as there was not sufficient time to instruct the voters in their use.

"From the general appreciation of the voting machines it is evident that their use will be extended to all parts of the city as soon as possible, and probably 100 will be in use in the next election. It was feared by the election officials that some of the machines might make a mistake, or get out of order, or in some manner fail to work, but the unfailing regularity with which the casting of the vote went along in all the precincts rapidly established the machine in the confidence of all voters, and within an hour after the booths opened yesterday morning all worry and anxiety over the operation of the machines disappeared, and the inspectors and clerks settled down to enjoy the easy work of checking off the voters, allowing the machine to perform the heavy labor of the day.

"To say that there was an entire absence of trouble with the machines would not fully explain their operation, but what difficulty was encountered in any of the booths was due to the voters and not to the machines. The trouble was chiefly with voters who could not read, or who became rattled on entering the machine and had to be cautioned in its use. In the Sixth precinct of the Sixth ward the election officials reported that one old voter, who during the last six years was never known to take less than half an hour to mark his ballot, accomplished the task of making a split ticket inside of two minutes, his achievement being greeted with a rally of good-natured applause from all the officials. In this precinct forty-five votes were cast in forty minutes.

"In the Sixth precinct of the Sixth ward one voter got into trouble with the machine by pulling down one of the small levers first, instead of ringing his straight party ticket before attempting to split. The exactness with which the machine worked was illustrated by the fact that the small lever was moved out of position so slightly that it was not noticed, and yet the machine, would not work. This occasioned some confusion, and at first it was thought that the machine had become disarranged.

"As the voter allowed the inspector to look at the machine the trouble was noted almost instantly, and in less than ten seconds afterward registered his vote, a split ticket. The incident increased the confidence of the election officials and voters in the machine.

"It shows that it is impossible for a voter to vote wrong," said Inspector Tromp. 'It is true that he may accidentally vote for the wrong man, but this is not liable to happen half so quickly as if he were marking one of the big blanket ballots. A man cannot cast a defective ballot with the machine.'

"One of the features of the machine that appealed the strongest to the election officials was that the vote was already cast up and totaled for them the moment the last vote was cast, and the hour for closing the polls arrived. In most instances it took less than two minutes to open the back of the machine and count up the total votes for all the candidates, and, instead of being kept until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, to count up split tickets, the officials were able to close the booths and get down town before the first returns had been received from any other precinct in the city or state.

"No trouble was experienced in the registering of the votes of women who appeared to cast a ballot on the state superintendent of schools and the constitutional amendment, as a device on the outside of the machine prevented their voting on any other office or question."

PERSONAL NOTES.

The supply of colonels in Georgia is not likely to run short. The governor of that state has just made an even 100 for his personal staff.

Thomas C. Boyd, 62 years of age, of Chicago, has just graduated from a law school in that city, and hopes to carve out a career for himself by strenuous work.

Lew Wallace persists in suggesting Roosevelt and Mitchell as the proper ticket in 1904. It looks as if Lew were preparing to launch another novel, and wanted some advertising.

J. E. Lodge, a second son of Senator Lodge, has taken hold of the Egyptian exploration fund, which has received many thousands of dollars from the people of New England.

The sultan of Turkey has issued an edict forbidding the publication of books in his realm. The reason is said to be that he is going to publish a book himself and wants a clear field for it.

W. F. King, chief astronomer of the Dominion of Canada, has been appointed by the British government a commissioner to mark the forty-ninth parallel from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific coast. Otto H. Tittman, superintendent of the United States coast and geodetic survey, has been appointed by the United States government a commissioner for the same purpose.

CUPID AND THE CHOIR.

A Lofty Subject Enveloped with the Commercial Spirit.

Baltimore American.

It is no unusual thing to hear that there is trouble in the choir. Musicians are very apt to be high strung, some of them are oversupplied with nerves, and few of them will tolerate anything that they consider an infringement on their rights. More than one choir quarrel can be traced to a most insignificant cause, which might at the start have been easily removed without hurting the feelings of others. But a little fire will kindle a great matter in a choir loft, as well as in other places, and it would almost seem as if the material kept there was a little more combustible than the usual run.

There is also another feature of choir life which cannot be overlooked. The intimate associations which naturally follow from the weekly gatherings and from the mingling of melodious voices in the same songs can hardly fail to bring about warm friendships, and it is to be expected that these friendships should sometimes result in love, in wooing and then in wedding. This seems the better feature of choir life, a feature which would seem worthy of approval, but in one instance it was carried to such an extreme that a halt had to be called or the music discontinued.

A Jersey City choir was the victim of Cupid's frequent assaults upon its members. Inside of eight months six of its young men and six of its young women made up their minds to wed one another, and did so. When they married they departed from the loft, and since then there had been no choir. So the pastor took a hand and has started another one, and to keep Cupid out of the game has compelled each new member to sign the following agreement:

"It is agreed by each and all of the undersigned members that they, each and all, will refrain from entering into a state of matrimony for a space of one year from the date hereof, under a penalty of a forfeiture of the sum of one hundred dollars ($100) to the Zion Choral union after having been declared guilty by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting of the union."

Objection may be made that this is putting a tax on matrimony, but Cupid, who laughs at locksmiths, is not apt to turn pale and run away for so small a sum as $100. He may stay out of the Jersey City choir for a time, but the chances are that it will not be long before he is back again, playing those same old tricks he has been playing since the world began.

POLISHED TO A POINT.

Chicago Tribune: "Had a brush with a fellow on the South Side elevated the other evening, did you? How did you come out?"

"I pasted him on the jaw, good and hard," replied the other billposter.

Philadelphia Press: "Talking of ships," said Mr. Phunniman, "I suppose courtship might properly be considered a transport."

"Sometimes," replied Miss Loveylipz, dreamily, "it is nothing less than a sort of wor-ship."

Washington Star: "A man kin allus tell whut he would do ef he was in another man's place," said Uncle Eben, "but de man dat gits de place is de one dat keeps a-doin' an' cuts out de tellin'."

New York Times: Gooligan and Hooligan (on the way down from the twenty-sixth story, the scaffold rope having broken)—Gooligan!

"Phwat, Hooligan."

"Th' dhrinks thot I have the fineshi wake av th' two."

New York Times: Alma—Wish me luck, Carrie; yesterday the doctor gave me his hand and heart.

Carrie—I'd advise you to have it repaired as soon as possible, then; only last week he told me I broke it.

Detroit Free Press: Kidder—Skinner played a mean trick on his wife. He told her if she learned how to cook he'd give her a surprise.

Slimkins—Did she learn to cook?

Kidder—Yes, and then he surprised her by discharging the cook.

Philadelphia Press: "I came," said the widow, "to see if you wouldn't publish something about my husband's death. I know you and he didn't hit it just right, but I thought mebbe you'd forget all that an'—"

"Madam," the country editor interrupted, "say no more. It will be a pleasure to print your husband's obituary."

Chicago Post: He told a funny story and then looked at the various members of the crowd anxiously.

No one asked him what he would have.

He told another and waited.

Still no one spoke.

"Gentlemen," he said at last, with infinite sarcasm, "this is what you would call dry humor."

"OH, PUMPKIN PIE!"

Baltimore American.

Oh, pumpkin pie!
Athwart thy face
An hundred fancies may I trace!
I see the glint of summer sun,
And twilight, when the day is done;
The sober peace of musing cows
Who in the meadow grasses browse;
The radiant glory of the morn
That sweeps across the nodding corn.
A thousand happy fancies start
When thou art nestling near my heart!

Oh, pumpkin pie!
I hear the breeze
That whispered in the maple trees;
I see the swaying fields of wheat,
And hear the bird songs, clear and sweet;
And low across the land at night
I catch that ballad of delight—
The chant the cricket sings in glee,
And summer comes again to me!
Oh, pumpkin pie! Thus dost thou cast
Thy joyous glamour o'er the past!

Oh, pumpkin pie!
Within thy breast
These gladsome summer fancies rest,
The golden sunshine and the dew
Have paid their tribute through and through;
The song the lark trilled in the air
Within thy form is echoed there;
And all these things of joy to me
Were caught and firmly held by thee.
Oh, pumpkin! Thanks for all thou didst!
I welcome thee unto my midst!