THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

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

1	31,470	16	28,435
2	29,450	17	30,090
3	31,060	18	30,870
4	31,350	19	30,940
5	31,085	20	30,860
6	34,550	21	30,630
7	31,210	22	31,410
8	30,340	23	28,310
9	29,575	24	30,920
10	31,300	25	31,090
11	30,970	26	31,090
12	30,700	27	30,780
13	30,820	28	31,130
14	30,730	29	31,480
15	31,310	30	28,475

Total 932,910
Less unsold and returned copies.... 9,237

Net total sales.....922,673
Net average sales..... 30,755

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30th day of November, A. D. 1902.
M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal) Notary Public.

Several building projects for Omaha are in the air. Omaha is bound to keep on growing.

A settlement of the Union Pacific strike would be a fine peace offering for the holidays.

Whatever a peaceful blockade may be, it certainly ought not to be employed against trust legislation in either branch of congress.

If the other Omaha dailies had the big circulations they claim, why should they charge advertising patrons smaller rates than are commanded by advertising space in The Bee? Here is a stickler.

The perfection of taxation is wholly imaginary, but we can make progress in that direction. Omaha's progress in the movement for tax reform in the past two years has been worth achieving.

Mr. Harriman recently declared that he had heard nothing about the Union Pacific lockout. He is hearing plenty about it now, but he appears to be afflicted with an impediment to his hearing apparatus.

If Colonel Bryan has gone to Mexico to volunteer advice against the adoption of the gold standard, it is safe to say that he has not taken with him copies of his old speeches in which he predicted the results of the rejection of the silver standard in the United States.

It is safe to say that England and Germany would today be paying little attention to the diplomatic representations of the United States if we had not provided ourselves with a substantial navy. After all it is might as much as right that counts in international discussions.

The United States internal revenue commissioner has drawn the line at soda water, seltzer and orange peels. Lemonade with a stick in it or claret and strawberries mixed with soda, or ginger beer topped off with Irish whisky, cannot be dispensed at the soda water counter without a retail dealer's liquor tax.

The completed statistics of silver production show that last year was the record-breaking year in the world's mines, the total reaching 179,000,000 fine ounces. It is also the first year in just a half century that the United States took second place as a silver-producing country, Mexico leading by 2,250,000 ounces.

The local franchised corporations have concluded to submit with good grace to assessment for taxation at figures somewhere approximating the true market value of their property and franchises. The railroads would do well to sound the temper of the people and recede from their untenable position that their valuable city terminals shall be taxed only as prairie mileage.

The World-Herald says it made no return for city taxation, but left its valuation to the assessor, who fixed it at $10,000, although the assessment in the county last spring was $43,800. The assessor must have got an idea somewhere that the property was rapidly depreciating in value. But still the W.-H. should have the benefit of its version of how it happened.

The Chicago Auditorium, which represents an investment of $1,765,000, paid for the year 1902 $42,361 in state, county and city taxes, or 24 mills on its actual value. With a fair assessment representing actual values, an investment of $1,765,000 would be taxed only 15 mills for state, county and city purposes in Omaha, or $15,885 less than was imposed on the Auditorium building of Chicago.

OBSTACLE TO ARBITRATION.

It is highly probable that Great Britain, and perhaps Germany also, would agree to submit their claims against Venezuela to arbitration if they were given a satisfactory guaranty that the Venezuelan government would pay the award of the arbitrators. It is reported from London that the British Foreign office has made inquiry as to whether this country would be willing to guarantee the fulfillment of Venezuela's pledges and that a negative reply was made. Of course the United States would not assume such a responsibility. It would establish a precedent that might compel us in the future to guarantee the pledges of other South American countries which are indebted to Europeans. There are few of those countries that are not more or less in debt to foreigners and the aggregate of these obligations is very large. If the United States should guarantee the pledges of those countries in regard to their debts it would place itself in a position certain to become most troublesome, burdensome and dangerous.

Therefore such a thing as this country becoming in any degree responsible for the carrying out of the pledges of Venezuela is not to be seriously thought of, yet those who urge that our government should propose arbitration and insist upon it ought to understand that if it were to take this course the European governments concerned could reasonably demand that it give a guaranty for the fulfillment of the pledges of Venezuela. They are fully justified in having no confidence in the Castro government. The whole career of the president of Venezuela, who exercises the powers of a dictator, has been such as to warrant distrust of him. He has been faithless to nearly every pledge he ever made, particularly to foreigners, and Americans as well as Europeans have suffered from his violation of obligations. There can be no confidence in the promises or the agreements of such a person and the European governments will be justified in rejecting arbitration if there is nothing more than the word of the Castro government to rely upon.

As the United States will not become in any sense or degree responsible for the pledges of Venezuela, it is perfectly obvious that it cannot reasonably insist that the European governments shall submit their claims, understood to be recognized by our government as valid, to arbitration. If there was doubt in regard to the justice of these claims, if there was ground for believing that the European governments are seeking to get from Venezuela what they have no right to, the case would be different. Then the United States might with propriety interpose and urge arbitration. But there is nothing of the kind. The claims are undoubtedly valid and while it is impossible for the Venezuelan government to pay them now, it should have acknowledged them and made satisfactory provision for their future settlement. Had this honest course been pursued there would be no trouble. The obstacle to arbitration is want of confidence in the Castro government and this is fully justified by the record of that government. This obstacle the United States cannot undertake to remove by assuming any responsibility in the matter.

CHOKING OFF THE POWER PROJECT.

When the ordinance granting the Thomson-Houston company the right to lay a system of electric wire conduits under the streets and alleys of Omaha was pending before the council in conjunction with an extension of the contract for street lighting, this valuable grant was voted by the council and approved by the mayor on the assurances that the company would either directly or through capitalists indirectly interested undertake the project of supplying this city with cheaper power, to be derived from the construction of reservoirs and canals in the neighborhood of the Platte or Elkhorn rivers.

While it is barely possible that a majority of the council would have voted the conduit ordinance and new electric lighting contract to the Thomson-Houston company without competition, we feel sure the proposition would have met with vigorous opposition from the business men and taxpayers of Omaha excepting for the inducement of the power canal, and doubt exceedingly whether it would have received the approval of the mayor. The failure of the electric lighting company to take even the preliminary steps toward redeeming its pledge justifies the suspicion of bad faith, if not the allegation of sharp practice in engineering the conduit ordinance and extension of the lighting contract more than a year before the expiration of the old contract.

If the tactics now being pursued to prevent the submission of a proposition of vital moment to the voters of Omaha are successful Omaha may as well abandon all hope of solving the cheap power problem for years to come. It is not uncommon for the opponents of bills introduced in the legislature to load them down with killing amendments. This mode of warfare is now being pursued under the lead of Councilman Hascall, who is an expert at parliamentary jugglery. While it is eminently proper to safeguard the public interest by reasonable guarantees, it is an insult to popular intelligence to exact conditions designed to frustrate the entire project and to make its acceptance impossible, and yet this is precisely what Councilman Hascall and his associates are trying to do under the pretext that they are protecting the community.

The assumption that the grant of this franchise will prevent the projectors of the Columbus canal or the Fremont power scheme from carrying out their enterprises is preposterous. Omaha is not a walled city. If any man or corporation can land cheaper power at the city limits of Omaha or South Omaha, the packing houses, the mills and factories of Omaha would soon find a way to utilize it and so would the street railway and electric lighting companies. The only possible benefit derived from the proposed franchise by its promoter would be the inducement it would afford to capitalists to invest two or three million dollars in the canal power project.

The attempt to block the franchise is not in the interest of Omaha, but manifestly an effort to perpetuate the existing electric lighting and power monopoly with prices based upon the high cost of fuel.

FOR TRUST PROSECUTION.

The house of representatives has voted $500,000 for use by the Department of Justice in the prosecution of trusts. It is perhaps safe to assume that this action will be approved by the senate and thus there will be placed in the hands of the attorney general of the United States an ample sum with which to institute and carry on proceedings against the great combinations under the Sherman anti-trust law. In the course of the debate on the proposition a democratic member criticised the attorney general for not having enforced the anti-trust law, but congress rather than that official is to blame, since it failed to provide him with the means for carrying on prosecutions. A proper enforcement of the anti-trust law will involve a very considerable expenditure and it was the duty of congress to have long ago made provision for this. If it shall now do so there is no reason to doubt that the Department of Justice will faithfully perform its duty. Attorney General Knox has shown that he is in hearty accord with President Roosevelt respecting the illegal combinations and with the means to proceed against them provided it can be confidently predicted that he will act with all possible vigor. The action of the house will have general public approval.

HOME RULE IN MISSOURI.

Municipal home rule in relation to elections is a live issue in Missouri, where the democratic party is able to maintain its hold only by systematic and flagrant subversion of free and fair elections in the great cities of St. Louis and Kansas City. Both are, in fact, republican cities, as has been demonstrated time and again, and, as the republican strength in the state was so rapidly growing as to threaten at any time to reduce the democracy to a minority, the so-called Nesbit election law was passed, taking elections in the two great cities out of the hands of their own people and leaving them to the tender mercies of the democratic state organization which controlled the state officers. This organization arbitrarily dictates the election boards and the law is carefully drawn to afford unlimited latitude for fraud both in the registration and election and in the counting and certification of the votes.

While this Missouri law striking down the rights of local constituencies has been in force several years, it has accomplished its purpose only through scandals and outrages, which at each succeeding election became more intolerable. The evidence is indisputable that at the late election the true result was falsified by the operation of the unrighteous system and thousands upon thousands of votes deliberately manufactured or suppressed in the returns according as partisan interest dictated. This evidence, so far as it relates to one district in St. Louis, will be placed on record through the contest of the republican candidate for congress, but it will not show a more disgraceful condition than is said to prevail in other parts of that city and of Kansas City.

It is noteworthy that affairs have reached such an extremity that a considerable element of the democratic party in the state is calling for repeal of the infamous Nesbit law and the restoration of the two leading cities to the same control over their own elections as other cities and communities possess. The dominant politicians will resist to the full limit and the fight for local rights resolves itself into a struggle for decent government.

The constitution of the state of Missouri prohibits any state officer or any member of the legislature from soliciting, receiving or accepting railroad passes or free mileage books on penalty of loss of office. A new constitutional amendment is to be introduced at the coming session of the Missouri legislature making it obligatory upon all railroad companies in Missouri to furnish transportation to state officers and legislators over their roads within the state during the period for which they are elected. The introducer of such an amendment will, however, run some risk. Back in 1889 a member of the Missouri legislature introduced a concurrent resolution to repeal the section of the constitution which prohibits legislators from accepting railroad passes. It did not go through and the introducer did not go back. In Nebraska the introducer of an amendment to the constitution to prohibit the issuance of railroad passes would not be in danger of signing his political death warrant, but the chances of passing such an amendment by the necessary three-fifths vote would be very, very slim.

Evidence before the coal strike commission has demonstrated time and again that statements on material points given out by the operators are uncandid or altogether false. Their pretended statistics of wages are mere juggles with figures, from which it is impossible to arrive at the average individual earnings, as from three to five persons are sometimes paid out of checks made out to a single mine worker. Plainly the operators from the first have deceived the public.

The traffic manager of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad declared before the Interstate Commerce Commission that for a long time the railroads of this country have been relatively spending more money than they earned; that this was because they were either spending too much on the properties or the earnings were too small. This is a revelation. If the railroads are actually spending more money than they earn, where do the millions and millions of dividends which they have distributed to stockholders come from? Why should not the stockholders go down into their own pockets for the money expended for improvements and extensions instead of taxing up the cost of improvements to shippers and producers through increased freight rates?

Chicago has enacted a new tenement house ordinance that should be duplicated for Omaha. Among the requirements of the Chicago tenement house ordinance are that every tenement house shall have a bulkhead, or scuttle, covered with fireproof materials, in the roof. Every tenement house shall have at least two flights of stairs extending from the entrance floor to the top story and one additional stairway for every additional forty rooms. All stairway halls shall be enclosed on all sides with solid masonry. Every main entrance hall shall be at least three feet six inches wide in the clear. The walls of bay windows must be of brick or other fireproof material. In addition to these precautions all the best modern safety appliances must be provided.

There will not be so much doing for some time as there has been lately in the industry of promoting mergers and the exploitation of inflated securities. For the past year or two it looked as if nothing could stop that industry. But the stock jobbers and promoting speculators are now up against a money market that is too much for them. The simple truth is that their business has been overdone. The real object of most of the flotations was to get something for a little or nothing and the public has had all of their goods that are wanted or that can be taken. Legitimate business, however, is in good condition and will care little for the winter of the stock jobbers' discontent.

Contrary to the general impression and to the anticipation of experts, money that was withdrawn from the eastern banks for use in crop movement is likely to return earlier and in larger volume than last year. Last week the New York banks gained from the interior $2,700,000, whereas for the same week of 1901 they lost more than that amount. The extraordinary demand for money in New York and the corresponding high rate of interest tend to attract thither every available dollar.

There is plenty of law in Pennsylvania, if enforced, to stop the outrage of requiring a little girl of 13 to work at night, twelve hours continuously on her feet, for 65 cents. And if there were no statutory law it would seem that a father earning $1,000 last year and yet permitting or causing the child to be thus abused might be forced by public sentiment to stop it. If ever a boycott is permissable, it is in such a case as this.

With over forty anti-trust bills already introduced in the house the subcommittee might be able to pick out some suggestions for a measure to be reported to the full committee. But, as the session lasts only three months and as a month, if the holiday recess be counted, has virtually gone, not much more time can be occupied with getting ready for the mere preliminaries to action.

Frightened by His Shadow.
Chicago Tribune.

Mr. James J. Hill of the Great Northern and several other railways apparently sees something in the country's present prosperity that interferes with one or two of his pet projects.

Strain on Human Patience.
Saturday Evening Post.

In 400 years, says Lord Kelvin, the earth's coal will be exhausted. From the way things are going now the earth's patience will be exhausted about 399 years earlier than that.

Hinting at a Good Thing.
Baltimore American.

That this is not an imaginative age is brilliantly proved by the suggestion of the London press that the United States should as a result of the Monroe doctrine, guarantee the debts of the western hemisphere.

Boosting Expectations.
Washington Post.

Some of the gentlemen who were elected to congress last month have been telling their constitutents of some wonderful reforms they exepect to accomplish. But then there would not be much in politics if it were not for expectations of this sort.

Justification for the Strike.
Indianapolis Journal.

The testimony brought out before the anthracite coal commission more than confirms all previous statements regarding the hard lot and cruel treatment of miners and their families and will go far toward justifying the strike.

Odds Against Venezuela.
Chicago Chronicle.

And now comes bold Italy, still wearing the Abyssinian black eye, to aid Germany and Albion in thrashing the undersized Venezuelan republic. Since the Transvaal business international bullies are very careful in tackling even the most insignificant foe unless they can form a combination in the ratio of about 100 to 1 against him.

Light Turned On Dark Places.
Cleveland Leader.

If the anthracite coal operators cared anything for public opinion they would never have permitted the strike to reach the arbitration stage. Some of the testimony now being given by witnesses before the commission is calculated to prove that there was a very small element of humanity in the dealings of the operators with their employes.

Success and Failure.
Brooklyn Eagle.

George Fred Williams of Massachusetts is trying to stretch himself to the size of Thomas B. Reed's mentality. He classes the ex-speaker's career a failure "because he said what he thought." Well, Williams has "said what he thought" and the people of Massachusetts have also "said what they thought"—about Williams. Their verdict was discouraging to Williams.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

Participants in the conference of the National Civic Federation in New York City last week maintained a degree of dignity befitting the subjects under discussion. Every speaker was very much in earnest and few ventured any observations of a humorous nature. One of the exceptions noted by the Evening Post was a story told by Samuel Mathes of Cleveland. Mr. Mathes has business interests in common with L. C. Hanna, brother of Senator Hanna, the federation's chairman. Three years ago there was a strike of ore handlers in one of the lake towns and he and Mr. Hanna undertook to persuade the men to return to work.

"We got along all right—chiefly by compromise—with all except the engineers," said he. "In that case a merchant of the town was mutually agreed on as arbitrator, and it was arranged that both sides should argue before him the question of an increase in wages. Mr. Hanna represented the employers, while an engineer, Pat Ryan spoke for his fellows. Mr. Hanna made a long, elaborate argument before the arbitrator, covering all the points he expected his opponent to raise. What was his surprise, as he finished, to find that all Pat had to say was:

"'Mister Ref'ree, th' byes wants th' raise!'

"Mr. Hanna was telling of this a few hours later and had just expressed himself as certain that the decision would be in our favor when the telephone bell rang. The referee was at the other end and he informed us that he had reached a decision in favor of the men's demand for more wages!"

"Ten years ago," writes the correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, "there was not a single bank in New York that had a capital of more than $3,000,000. The theory that prevailed then was that it was a disadvantage to a bank to have a capital of more than a million or two. Several institutions, indeed, reduced the amount of their capital. But there has been a radical change in ten years. In that time the total capitalization of members of the clearing house has increased about $45,000,000, which is all represented by the increased capacity of four institutions, namely, the National City bank, the Bank of Commerce, First National bank and the new Western National Bank of the United States. The total capital of these four institutions is $55,000,000. But even this does not adequately represent their financial power. Their alliances with great insurance and trust companies, and with capitalists of immense wealth and international connections, give them a standing higher even than their capital, large as it is, represents."

Explorers journeying southeast from Chatham square along James street, relates the Times, come upon the wholesale banana quarter, the greater part of three blocks of that thoroughfare below Madison street. James street is narrow and lined with somewhat forbidding brick tenements, many of them originally the dwellings of single families. Sometimes the ground floor apartments and sometimes the cellars of these houses are occupied by the banana dealers, mostly Italians, with perhaps a few Greeks. But for the banana shops the street would be dreary enough, but the display of bright yellow fruit in front of each shop, and in one block nearly every house has such a shop, gives the region a gay aspect, especially when the sun happens to be shining brightly into the tunnel-like thoroughfare. You may catch sight of the gay display almost as soon as you leave Chatham square. It is sufficiently foreign in suggestion.

Every proprietor hangs a few bunches of ripening bananas outside his shop close to the sidewalk, and most of the shops have no other sign than these displays of merchandise, though one at the corner of Madison street has upon its awning this legend, "All Kind of Bananas." As the little shops have only the one kind of goods the bunches swinging about the doorway are an effectual advertisement.

It is a tradition in Wall street that a broker never voluntarily retires from the street, but must wait for death or misfortune to compel his retirement, but Broker Henry B. Vaughan, who is credited with having amassed $6,000,000 in the last six years, is the exception that proves the rule. Despite the fact that he has put away $1,000,000 for each year that he has spent as a member of the Stock exchange—he bought a seat in 1896—he has retired. He sold his seat for $80,000 and expects to spend the proceeds this winter in a pleasure trip to Europe. Mr. Vaughan, who is 60 years old, according to his own admission, does not look within ten years of that age.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Gibbs Mansfield, son of the actor, will present a Christmas tree to the Free School for Crippled Children in New York.

It is said that Adlai Dean, 85 years of age, who died lately in Boone county, Ky., was the last surviving veteran of the Mexican war.

M. Coquelin, in addition to being a good actor, is also a good shot. When last in Germany M. Coquelin was complimented by the kaiser on his marksmanship.

A Pittsburg man who tried to play a joke on a friend by pretending to be a highwayman was killed. If he had been the real thing he would have escaped without a scratch, most likely.

Dr. Tullio Verdi, at one time a celebrated physician in Washington, has just died at Milan, Italy. During President Grant's administration he was commissioned by him to study the hygienic laws of Europe.

W. J. Bailey, the bachelor governor of Kansas, has received 1,000 proposals of marriage from women in the United States and Canada. Lieutenant governor Hanna, also a bachelor, has received more than 500.

J. B. Hutchinson, for five years general manager of the Pennsylvania railroad, has been compelled to resign—used up with the growth of the interests under his charge. He has been for nearly forty years with the company and the directors will make a new place for him, that of assistant to the second vice president. He is to go out of his present office January 1 and will be given four months' vacation before resuming work.

General John B. Gordon, commander of the United Confederate Veterans, has issued a circular letter calling the attention of the members to the restrictions in the constitution of the federation prohibiting in the camps any political or religious action or the indorsement of any candidate for political office. He reminds them that the objects and purposes of the organization are, strictly and solely, social, literary, historical and benevolent.

Keir Hardie, the British member of Parliament, adheres for the most part to the small cap—a cross between the cap known as Scotch and the kind of tight-fitting cap a workman wears when he is starting for work in the bleak early morning. It was this cap which led to a little incident. Keir Hardie on the opening day of Parliament came down to the library to consult some books. "Are you working here, mate?" queried a friendly policeman at the palace yard gate. "Yes." "On the roof?"—which was undergoing repairs at the time. "No, on the floor."

SPENDING TO MAKE MORE.

What Statistics Show in Regard to Our Postal Revenues.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

The truth of the maxim that in order to make money the trader must spend money in developing his business is well illustrated by Postmaster General Payne's annual report. Since the department has begun to spend money freely in developing its business in new directions its revenues have increased with accelerating speed, until now the postal service is nearer self-sustaining than it has been since the last reduction in rates.

In the fiscal year 1898 prosperity had been fairly well re-established, and postal receipts proved the fact by rising about $12,000,000 over those of 1895. But no new line of business had been developed, and the postal deficiency, over $11,000,000 in 1895, was still over $10,500,000 in 1898. In other words, while business was increasing, it cost about as much to do it as it brought in, and there was no real gain.

But an experiment toward developing a new line of postal business had begun—that of rural free delivery. On this $40,000 had been spent in 1897 and $50,000 in 1898. The new product was evidently meeting a demand. In 1899, though the success of the experiment was still deemed uncertain, congress was induced to spend $150,000 on it, and in 1900 to increase this to $450,000. In 1899 postal receipts increased $4,000,000, as compared with 1898, while the deficiency declined $2,300,000. In 1900 receipts rose $7,240,000 higher, but the deficiency fell only $1,000,000.

Then, in 1901, congress took hold of rural free delivery in real earnest, allowing $1,750,000 for that branch that year and nearly $4,000,000 in 1902. The effect was positive and immediate. In 1901 receipts rose nearly $10,000,000 above those of 1900, while the deficiency fell $3,300,000. And in 1902 receipts gained more than $10,000,000, while the deficiency sank another $1,000,000. In fact, since rural free delivery was seriously undertaken the postal deficiency has declined practically in inverse ratio to the expenditure on that branch of the business.

Statistics at hand do not give the proportion of increased revenue derived from the rural free delivery routes. Nor is it really necessary to have such figures. It is evident that the largely profitable new business of the department—the business which returns considerably more than the cost of doing it—comes from the rural free delivery branch. This is the only strictly new facility afforded by the department to the public for several years, and the more widely it is offered the more rapidly do the revenues of the department increase.

About 1,000,000 square miles of the national territory are considered by the department's experts to be able to give profitable support to a rural free delivery service. Only about one-third of this territory is now covered. In the light of the facts rapid and vigorous extension of the rural free delivery service, without, of course, neglecting other improvements, is evidently the policy that will bring the largest returns for a liberal expenditure. Rural free delivery is plainly the field wherein congress can just now spend money for the postal service, and so wipe out the deficiency altogether and make the service self-sustaining.

PROSPERITY HERE TO STAY.

Evidences of the Country's Ability to Avert a Financial Crisis.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

The testimony of the London Statist that large American loans have been paid off in Paris, substantially reducing our international debts, is only part of the evidence of the financial strength of the United States which has come to light during the past six weeks of a stringent money market. What is still more notable is that the heavy liquidation which has been going on in stocks has caused no serious failures anywhere—a proof that the speculation was not as rampant as had been represented. All the stocks sold have found buyers at good prices, showing that somebody has had the money for investment at the declines. There has been no panic, though a powerful "bear" party has been operating and very heavy declines were predicted at the beginning. Of late the rallies have been more violent than the declines, and the low points at the market are on each decline a little above the previous ones, so that if the worst is not over there is little likelihood of any great fall.

Leaving Wall street, which is entitled to notice purely as the indication of financial opinion, we find every branch of trade continuing to flourish. Our agricultural interests, on which our prosperity is based, have been strengthened by large gains in the corn and oats, hay and potato crops. The wheat crop is turning out larger than the preliminary report gave reason to believe, and it is the largest yield, with but three, and possibly only two, exceptions in history. The cotton crop, at first thought to be seriously cut short, has been favored exceptionally by the season, and now there is little expert questioning of a yield of at least 11,000,000 bales. Best of all, these farm products are in great demand at highly remunerative prices, thus guaranteeing the prosperity of trade for the next year, if no longer.

For a while the croakers have been claiming that railroad earnings were shrinking. There was some decline in the net earnings of August and September, due to the anthracite strike, which seriously affected a number of important lines, but late figures on September show the upward march was only slightly checked. October earnings did better. The typical corn-carrying road, the Atchison, showed a gross increase of $520,000 for the month, and a very large net increase, yet the new corn crop has barely begun to move. When this important cereal is marketed in all the forms in which it goes into consumption, expert opinion is that the railroads will have such traffic as never before. The railroads cannot have freight unless general business is active.

The legitimate business situation has not had a backset anywhere, while Europe has been waiting with bated breath for a repetition of the hard times of 1893. These hard times seem still far off, for we have weathered apparently what is the worst part of a serious monetary famine, without a distressing accumulation of business failures, as must have been the case were not conditions intrinsically sound.

THE OLD RELIABLE

ROYAL

BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

WHITTLED TO A POINT.

Chicago News: Giles—There is a fortune in grain speculation.
Miles—How do you know?
Giles—Because I put one there.

Detroit Free Press: "Your son is a philosophical student, I hear?"
"Yes, I believe he is. I can't understand what he's talking about."

Indianapolis News: "Your office was burglarized last night?"
"Yes."
"Did they blow open the safe?"
"No. They were too smart for that. They went right after the coal bin."

Philadelphia Ledger: Guest—I noticed a football in the front hall.
Tenant—Yes. The janitor put it there. He said when we wanted to kick we could use that.

Philadelphia Press: "Yes, he has an incurable heart trouble. He's fallen in love."
"Oh! that's not incurable."
"Not ordinarily, but I'm afraid his age is against him. He's over 60."

New York Times: "Here is a letter from a lawyer," said his wife, "who says that your uncle has died and left you $10,000."
"For these and other kindred blessings," murmured the dominie, "let us be devoutly thankful."

Washington Star: "Intrinsic value should never figure in considering a Christmas gift."
"It never does with me," answered Miss Cayenne. "What touches me is the thought that anybody has been willing to brave a crowd of holiday shoppers for my sake."

Atlanta Constitution: "I can't git my min' right on what sort er fish hit wuz dat swallowed Jonah," said the lay member.
"You don't have ter," replied Brother Dickey. "Des shet yo' min' up, en thank God hit didn't swaller you!"

A Mean Man.

S. E. Kiser in Record-Herald.

Oh, the meanest man is not the man
Who snatches a lady's purse;
A man like that is a mean, mean man,
But there is a man who's worse;
He has last year's gifts all piled away—
The doll, the drum and the engine, too—
And he'll get them out on Christmas day
And pretending he's Santa, strew
Them around on the floor to be used once more,
As if they all were new.

CANDOR.

H. C. Brunner.

"I know what you're going to say," she said,
And she stood up looking uncommonly tall;
You are going to speak of the hectic fall,
And say you're sorry the summer's dead,
And no other summer was like it, you know,
And can I imagine what made it so?
Now, aren't you, honestly?" "Yes," I said.

"I know what you're going to say," she said;
"You are going to ask if I forget
That day in June when the woods were wet,
And you carried me"—here she dropped her head—
"Over the creek; you are going to say
Do I remember that horrid day;
Now, aren't you, honestly?" "Yes," I said.

"I know what you're going to say," she said;
"You are going to say that since that time
You have rather tended to run to rhyme,
And"—her clear glance fell, and her cheek grew red—
"And have I noticed your tone was queer?
Why, everybody has seen it here!
Now, aren't you, honestly?" "Yes," I said.

"I know what wou're going to say," I said;
"You're going to say you've been much annoyed,
And I'm short of tact—you will say devoid—
And I'm clumsy and awkward, and call me Ted,
And I bear abuse like a dear old lamb,
And you'll have me, anyway, just as I am,
Now aren't you, honestly?" "Yes," she said.

B&K

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R. S. WILCOX, Manager.