

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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Table with 2 columns: Copy number and Circulation count. Total copies printed: 532,910. Less unsold and returned copies: 9,257. Net total sales: 523,653.

It is the Christmas spirit that counts—not what you give, but how you give it. As between the smoke nuisance and the fog nuisance most people would prefer the smoke.

Prospects point to a scarcity of Christmas turkey. The goose, however, does not hang quite so high.

It is to be hoped the school children will all enjoy their Christmas holidays—likewise the school teachers.

Equitable taxation is one of those things as to which too many people favor the principle, but resent the application.

Murat Halstead must certainly have a complete history of the Venezuelan war ready to issue red hot from the press before the new year sets in.

The piece de resistance of the Outlook for the current week is "The Quest of the Three Kings," but no mention is made of the quest of the four aces or of the straight flush.

According to Delegate Rodey New Mexico has not less than 320,000 inhabitants, of whom about 50,000 altogether live in towns and cities and the other 270,000 are scattered.

What this country wants most just now is an India rubber currency so elastic as to fill in the gaps caused by the shrinkage of watered stocks and inflated trust balloons.

The guessing contest on the governor of New York was closed some weeks ago, but the guessing contest on the mayor of Omaha will remain open until the raw month of March.

Uncle Sam's star mathematician is trying to figure out how much it will cost to fatten a lean Texas steer in the semi-arid region with grass grown on land leased for 2 cents per acre.

The Christmas thaw has forcibly called attention to the fact that the electric wire conduits, planted in frozen ground, are liable to cause serious damage by settlement of the pavement.

Andrew Carnegie's notice that his daughter is not to be overburdened with her riches will not deter ambitious suitors from taking a chance on an eleven-hour change of the parental mind.

A tract of land at the mouth of Big Goose creek, near Sheridan, Wyo., has been proclaimed as the coming summer resort. In the meantime the worst blizzard of the season is raging along Big Goose creek.

When it comes to international arbitration, the powers of the world all recognize the fact that Uncle Sam can act as arbitrator with less chance of partiality and discrimination than any other of their number.

The Monroe doctrine does not necessarily mean that Uncle Sam is to assume the task of bad debt collecting agency for European speculators and adventurers who have uncollectible claims in South America.

That proposed bill to punish husbands who wantonly desert their wives should be supplemented by a bill to punish wives who wantonly desert their husbands. Equal rights for all—no discrimination on account of sex.

The chances are improving with the lapse of time that there will be no further fulminations or ebullitions from the executive mansion of Nebraska until the present accidental occupant unloads his first and last message to the legislature.

An appropriation of \$75,000 for Nebraska's participation in the St. Louis exposition will be among the recommendations of the message of the outgoing governor. The legislature, however, will be amply able to take care of this proposition when the time comes.

MAINTAINING THE "DOCTRINE."

Nearly seven years ago, when the agitation over the boundary controversy between Great Britain and Venezuela was intense, the committee on foreign relations of the United States senate made a declaration of the attitude of our government regarding the Monroe doctrine. This reaffirmed the principles promulgated by President Monroe in his message of December 2, 1823, and declared that the United States will assert and maintain that doctrine and those principles, specifying the conditions and circumstances under which this country would regard an infringement thereof "as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States and as an interposition which it would be impossible in any form for the United States to regard with indifference."

The resolution of the senate committee related to any attempt by a European power to acquire new or additional territory on the American continent or any island adjacent thereto, or to assert any right of sovereignty or dominion in the same in any case or instance.

In the executive session of the senate last Tuesday the Venezuelan situation received attention and while there was no disposition to attribute ulterior motives to any of the parties to the trouble, there was a resolute purpose expressed, above and beyond all partisanship, to maintain the Monroe doctrine in spirit and letter and to permit no aggressive movement that might aim at the acquisition of South American territory by any European nation.

There is no doubt that this is in accord with the feeling of the American people, irrespective of political division. As a democratic senator said, on a question of this kind there was no party division, "the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine devolved on the whole people." But while there is unanimity of sentiment in favor of upholding the doctrine, there is divergence of opinion respecting its meaning in scope.

This has been strikingly shown in the public discussion of the principle enunciated by Monroe in connection with the Venezuelan matter. It has been urged that the United States would have been justified by that doctrine in proposing and insisting upon arbitration, although no territorial acquisition is contemplated and the European powers explicitly avowed their purpose to be to simply collect their claims by means which this country had not only recognized as legitimate, but had itself employed.

It is not remarkable that there should be misapprehension on the part of the southern republics regarding the intent and scope of the Monroe doctrine. It is easy to understand that they should construe it as affording them protection in any circumstances—for their refusal to pay their just debts or any violation of their obligations, as well as from attempts by foreign powers to take their territory or interfere with their political institutions.

But all intelligent Americans ought to understand the extent of the application of the doctrine, which has been repeatedly and plainly defined. It must now be clearly understood even by the southern countries that the United States does not propose to assume any responsibility for debts which they neglect or refuse to pay and will not shield them if they attempt to repudiate such obligations.

Neither will it undertake to protect them from proper punishment for any violation of international duties and responsibilities. As President Roosevelt has said: "We do not guarantee any state against punishment if it misconducts itself, provided that punishment does not take the form of the acquisition of territory by any non-American power."

THE CHILD LABOR BILL.

The movement for the correction of the child labor evil does not appear to have yet had any very important practical result, though it has aroused an interest in the problem, both north and south, which can hardly fail to ultimately be productive of remedial measures. The New York Evening Post, which has been especially zealous in support of the movement, says that "despite the capitalistic influences at work to prevent the rescue of the children, there is a steadily growing recognition that the fight is one for the health and welfare of coming generations."

It states that the movement is gaining strength daily in North and South Carolina, as well as in Alabama, where one of the largest mills works children of 6 years or more thirteen hours a day, with twenty minutes for dinner.

The defenders of this system in the south, the Post says, effectively appeal to sectional jealousy, representing that the north is meddling in matters which do not concern it and urging that New England should set its own house in order. Unfortunately, there is abundant warrant for the southern employers of child labor retorting "You're another." Great numbers of children, hardly more than infants, are employed in northern mills and factories, though not generally under such hard conditions, either as to hours of work or wages, as commonly prevail in the south.

According to reports of factory inspectors, 9,000 children are employed in Massachusetts, 16,000 in New York, 20,000 in Illinois and 35,000 in Pennsylvania, exclusive of boys in the coal mines. It is said that in Illinois the number of children reported by factory inspectors has more than doubled in the five years between 1897 and 1901. The testimony given before the anthracite strike commission in regard to the employment of little girls in the silk mills for periods of twelve hours at a few cents an hour was a revelation that has made a strong impression and ought to strengthen the movement for remedying the child-labor evil.

One of the active leaders in the movement says that the "child-labor problem, far from being a local one to be dealt with by a small group of southern cotton-manufacturing states, is a great and growing national problem." No one can doubt this who will take the trouble to investigate the facts. Tens of thousands of children are being deprived of an opportunity for learning even to read and write and are suffering both physically and morally from the system which it is sought to remedy. The movement should have the hearty support of all who are concerned for the health and welfare of coming generations.

PRIVATE PENSION BILLS.

The present session of congress promises to keep up the record in passing private pension bills, showing that private criticism in this matter has very little influence at Washington. One day last week the house of representatives passed 174 private pension bills in thirty-nine minutes, or at the rate of almost five a minute, which is certainly very lively work. Of course there could be no real consideration of these bills by the house. The speed at which it worked made criticism or objection next to impossible, had any one desired to indulge in either. But it is very rarely that a private pension bill encounters objection. There seems to be a common understanding that these measures are not to be interfered with. A couple of years ago a senator, we think it was Mr. Gallinger of New Hampshire, called attention to the carelessness shown by congressmen generally in regard to private pension bills and the haste with which they were passed and urged that they should be given more consideration, but his suggestion was not heeded.

Perhaps no reform in this matter is to be expected, yet no harm will be done in occasionally reminding congressmen that this method of taking money out of the public treasury ought to be conducted a little more carefully than is the rule. Undoubtedly some of the private pension bills are meritorious, but this should be fully established in every case.

A VITAL MERGER DEFECT.

Financial journals are calling attention to the lack of sufficient working capital in a multitude of industrial mergers and consolidations usually regarded as legitimate undertakings, as potential factors in the present money stringency. It is noted that in the original organization of these vast concerns insufficient provision was made for capital to carry on their business, so that in some cases, like the American Bicycle company, a receivership was the only resort, or in many others, like the American Lined Oil company and the United States Rubber company, immense amounts had to be provided by additional issues of bonds and stocks, while innumerable companies which avoided such issues now find themselves hard pressed for operating funds.

The actual lack of funds was in large measure concealed by the liberal advances the banks in flusher times could give, but which are now withdrawn. This grave defect was in fact inevitable in the methods by which the great majority of the consolidations were organized and launched. Even in most of the cases where legitimate industrial concerns were the subjects of consolidation, an important and often the chief motive was speculative, and while excessive prices were paid for the separate properties enormous amounts of the capitalization were set apart for the managers in addition to what was seized as profits to the promoters and financing syndicates at every stage of the reorganizing process. The plain but vital matter of operation being a secondary thought, its needs were neglected. Not only so, but most of the concerns went into operation having their capital still in the form of unsold securities, and to make them tempting in the market or to maintain them there high dividend rates had to be insured, thus cutting down surplus earnings needed in the business.

A striking illustration is afforded by the American Glass Twine company, a far stronger concern than the average, in cancelling its announcement of a quarterly dividend of 1 1/4 per cent. This is significant of what must perforce be done by a vast number of pretentious consolidations. What is actually transpiring and impending as the result of inherent defects in industrial reorganizations—to speak plainly about it—is commonly known as wringing out the water.

AN EFFECTIVE BLOCKADE.

A blockade of the ports of Venezuela, to be effectively maintained, has been declared by the British government. This gives a changed aspect to the situation, for while under the so-called Pacific blockade only the vessels of Venezuela could be prevented from entering or leaving the ports of that country, now the vessels of all countries are subject to the conditions specified in the proclamation of the British government and authorized by international law. Of course our government, as has been already announced, will recognize the blockade, which implies the existence of a state of war, so that American vessels attempting to enter Venezuelan ports after the time designated in the declaration will do so at their own risk, being liable to seizure and condemnation.

This action simplifies the situation by establishing a definite understanding. It is an unmistakable fact that the allies and Venezuela are at war and neutrals will govern themselves accordingly. The declaration of the blockade will not necessarily put a stop to negotiations looking to arbitration and there seems to be favorable promise that these may be successful, unless the Castro government should soon be overthrown, which appears not improbable.

It should be remembered that innumerable "restorations" of rates which the eastern and western railroads are making or contemplating are in fact sheer advances of rates. While it is true that many of the rates which have actually been in force were below the tariff figures, it is also true that the tariff figures in these cases were never or seldom actually changed. It involves the exacting of a higher tribute from the public, and the pretense of its being a mere "restoration" does not in the least affect the character of the advance.

It is noted that Canada's imports from the United States have grown steadily notwithstanding its preferential duty in favor of British goods. But its trade with Great Britain has also grown steadily, and there is no question that the United States would have gained still more had it been on an equal footing with its competitor. If full reciprocity should be instituted between the United States and Canada Uncle Sam would soon outstrip his British cousin in the race for Canadian trade.

As a result of a citizens' movement and investigation begun last fall the assessment roll of St. Joseph has been increased by between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000, and the increase represents property on which taxes never were paid before. The experience of St. Joseph is the same as that of most other western cities. Through lack of adequate public interest abuses steadily crept in until they became too flagrant to be endured.

The commercial forecaster of Dun & Co. has favored the country with the announcement that the year 1902 will end well. On the theory that it is somewhat risky to praise a man until after he is dead, because he might do something out of the perpendicular before he draws his last breath, the prediction of the Dun forecaster is slightly premature. There are still ten days for the unexpected of 1902 to happen.

Another Revelation.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. President Roosevelt's plan of requiring the Indian to work for his living must be quite a revelation to the red man.

Exercise for the Inert.

Saturday Evening Post. Exercise is just as valuable when done as work as when performed in a gymnasium. The muscles do not know the difference between chopping wood and swinging Indian clubs.

Joy Be With 'Em.

Chicago Chronicle. Coincident with the approach of the yuletide season comes the joyous intelligence that a job lot of short weight coal dealers are headed for the county jail. This renders life worth living.

The Fiction of Peace.

Philadelphia Record. There is no war in South America. English and German men-of-war have captured the Venezuelan navy and destroyed most of it, and they have knocked Venezuelan fortifications into brickbats, but perfect peace prevails.

More, More, More!

Baltimore American. Rockefeller gets a four million dollar check as a quarterly dividend on his Standard Oil stock, and at the same time the price of oil is put up. These two facts coupled together seem to indicate that there is still something wrong in the world.

Boomer of Great Schemes.

Philadelphia Record. No promoter in the land carries more speculative bias in his head than Senator Morgan of Alabama. His latest scheme is to colonize the American negroes in the Philippine islands. He would have the government undertake the necessary transportation giving free passage and twenty-acre homestead as inducements to emigration, without consequent impairment of any of the rights of American citizenship. No doubt there are climatic arguments which justify such a movement. The negro flourishes under tropical conditions that enervate or de-

Will They "Save the Country?"

Indianaapolis News. Dealers say that coal prices will be high until something is done to increase shipping facilities. If this is so, it looks as if it were up to the railroads to save the country.

Passing It Down the Line.

Baltimore American. First, there was a scarcity of coal; then of railroad cars; then of locomotives; then of coal carts, and so the excuses go along down the line. But there is no scarcity of empty coal bins, nor of a cold public that is fast losing patience over the exasperating situation.

Good Thing to Pass Around.

Washington Post. Secretary Wilson contends that the people who will be afflicted with the foot-and-mouth disease should be paid for the same. What about the man who sorts his potatoes and is obliged to throw away the bad ones. Then there is the newspaper publisher who would not object to receiving compensation for the papers that are spoiled in the process of printing. But there are so many other industries the secretary might benefit in this manner that it is not at all practical for us to attempt to enumerate. If we are going in for paternalism, why show discrimination.

Pay Living Wage or Quit.

Minneapolis Journal. Judging from Judge Gray's remarks in the coal arbitration commission's session the commission does not propose to go into the question of whether the operators can afford to pay living wages or not. It assumes that if they can't it would be better to close the mines. This is good sense. Inquiry as to whether the operators can afford to pay what the men earn would last indefinitely and would be aside from the point. Let those mines close that cannot pay fair wages, and the sooner the better. Not many, however, will close even under application of this rule.

Cheerful Symbols.

Boston Herald. We get further substantial evidence of the prosperity and generosity of our people from the enormous quantities of Christmas gifts with which the outgoing ocean liners have been laden during the past week or two. The great bulk of these tokens of remembrance, numerically at least, are those of the comparatively poor, and it is significant of the condition of this class of people that their remittances, in one form and another, have been exceptionally large this season. It is recalled how Mr. Beecher once remarked that the gifts sent from children in the new world to their parents and relatives in the old home were a symbol of love and affection without parallel, and the highest tribute to the character and value of the newly arrived immigrant. It is apparent that the growth of the nation is almost keeping step with the enormous growth of immigration.

POINTING IN RIGHT DIRECTION.

Free Rural Mail Delivery a Promoter of Good Roads. New York Sun. If report be true, the postmaster general is soon to be asked to consider a pretty promising plan for the betterment of the highways of this country, submitted to the superintendent of the free delivery system by a citizen of Pennsylvania, Mr. Joseph W. Brown. It is based upon the fact that only one serious obstacle stands in the way of developing the free delivery service, namely, the present condition of our country roads.

Mr. Brown's idea is that if a certain road is reported as practically impassable for the carriers, the highway authorities of the town wherein it is found are to have a reasonable length of time within which to repair it, and the penalty for their failure is to be the cessation of free delivery in that locality.

In his recent report Mr. Martin Dodge, director of the bureau of public roads inquiries of the Department of Agriculture, made some interesting comments: "The circumstances under which \$4,000,000 was appropriated by our last congress largely to be buried in our muddy roads in the delivery of our rural mails, while only the small sum of \$20,000 was last year devoted to meeting the road problem, indicate the great need of education regarding the present necessity and demand for vigorous and intelligent road work."

"As much of these large appropriations for rural mail delivery could be saved if we had good roads, it is obvious that an amount equal to a considerable portion of these sums should be spent to good advantage in educating the people in the work of improving our country roads, and thus forever close a large drain on our national cashbox."

If the introduction of free mail delivery results in the improvement of our country roads our rural friends will have occasion to bless the art of letter writing and the postoffice twice over.

ONE WAY TO KILL IT.

An Old Reliable Remedy for the Germ of Laziness. Baltimore American. It has been discovered that strong aversion to work, deep anxiety to refrain as far as possible from anything that even smacks of toil, is due to a germ. It is the custom nowadays to blame nearly everything on this apparently innocent factor in the makeup of the universe, and it will probably not be long before it is charged with being responsible for original sin and for other mental and moral weaknesses that have brought all kinds of woes upon the human family. This scientist insists—and nobody yet has arisen to question the accuracy of his discovery—that the germ of laziness has at last been captured; but yet he has found no method of killing it. If it partakes of the nature of the human being in which it exists, there is not, however, any danger that it will run away, and the scientist may have all the time he wants to find its antidote.

It has generally been held that some people are born lazy; others acquire laziness, just as some unwise men acquire an insatiable desire for rum, and still others a fondness for company that even annoys either their minds or their morals. Cases have been known in which even household servants, who fall to wake up when the cock crows or when the alarm clock goes on a rampage, have been accused of laziness; but the housekeeper who never felt it necessary to send for a doctor to search for the germ. Emphatic language from the head of the house or a prompt discharge are generally employed to prevent a recurrence of the lack of appreciation of the flight of time. The tramp and the hobo, if laziness be a germ, must be well supplied with the article, for even the law cannot cure them of the resolve to keep far away from anything that resembles toil.

The American scientist can rest assured that if laziness be a germ, work will cure it. Enforced labor with head or hands or feet will knock out laziness quicker than even Dewey could knock out a Spanish fleet. The remedy is infallible, and when once employed the patient is not apt to come around asking for another dose.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Two short weight coal dealers have been thrust into jail in Chicago. One is a white justice, the other a black justice. Both are said to be jobbing coal.

Kentucky's whisky crop for the year will be 30,000,000 gallons. The fear of drought in the Bluegrass state seems to be without substantial foundation.

Five Crows, an Indian chief in Oregon, is dead. Too much nectar of civilization. When Old Crow and Five Crows got together some one had to croak.

The man who rocked the boat has retired from business, but the one who tries to skate over the air holes of the Missouri river will be heard of presently.

Medical sharps claim to have discovered a specific for the germ of laziness. Hitherto the dictum of Josh Billings held unquestioned sway: "There ain't nothing that's a sure cure for laziness, but I have known a second wife turn her up in time."

A young woman in Oklahoma was forcibly kissed three times and was awarded a verdict of \$166.66 for each kiss. This raises the Oklahoma kiss to the notch of luxury. At this season, however, it is expected every young woman will be generous to the poor.

Peter Finley Dunne of Dooley fame will not philosophize on "domestic relations" for some time to come, "for, you see," he declares, "marriage is one of the few things that is better to 'discuss' on before the experiment." Dooley has gone and done it.

A bronze memorial bust of the late Colonel Richard W. Thompson, secretary of the navy in the cabinet of President Hayes and for sixty years an active participant in national politics, has just been unveiled in the court house yard at Terre Haute, Ind.

The Philadelphia Record scores an unthought "accop" by issuing its annual almanac two weeks ahead of the procession. Its early call makes its welcome all the warmer, and its record of the waning year is as interesting as its forecast of coming events is instructive.

Some unknown knocker sent personal invitations to New York aldermen to visit and inspect local jails. The salons took the hint and promptly approved the Pennsylvania tunnel scheme which was held up for months past. Collections of Bill Lined and Jake Sharp are a power for good in Gotham.

The Washington Star swelled out of all proportion on the 16th inst, the occasion being the golden anniversary of the founding of the paper. A seventy-four-page edition and a magazine supplement fittingly marked the event. The paper is being marketed in the newspaper line and epitomizes the progress of the national capital in half a century.

TRUSTS' POLICY OF DELAY.

Modern Application of "Flavian Military Tactics." Baltimore American (rep.). The policy of the trust magnates during the present session of congress reminds one very much of the famous Flavian military tactics. There is a very obvious disposition to precipitate a congressional contest which will force a general battle, with its final decision. The trusts are afraid to face such a crisis. Like the Romans of old, they know the fierce power of their adversaries. All of the arguments of fairness, justice, honesty and national contentment have been marshaled under the banners of the anti-trust army. Such an array of power is entirely too formidable for the trusts to chance a conclusive trial of arms against it. Were the matter pushed to a final issue at this session there is no doubt as to the overwhelming, the crushing defeat which the trusts would sustain.

The champions of the trusts are sharp enough to see their danger, just as much so as the Roman general was shrewd enough to perceive the perils which would be encountered were the legions of the empire again dashed against the battalions of Hannibal. The policy of delay, as a consequence is being resorted to by the trusts as the best way to avert a legislative calamity. Strenuous efforts are being put forth to prevent this session of congress from enacting any measure which is in the least aggressive. All of the combined power of their wealth and influence is being utilized in the plan of choking off discussion as far as possible and of holding down legislation; that is, if legislation must come, to some trivial and ineffective measure.

The trusts hope to accomplish much in this way. They have great fears of the consequences should a constitutional amendment follow. They also oppose the suggestions about publicity and capitalization. Any radical law in any one of these directions would be ruinously hurtful to the trust method of operation. For that reason the trust champions are conducting a three-cornered fight. They are endeavoring to split the anti-trust army into three parts, each part representing some special pet measure of its own. By this process of dividing the enemies' forces the trusts count on preventing the mustering of enough support around any one proposition to carry it to enactment. In other words, it is desired to keep the several divisions so far apart that they cannot act in unison. By so doing the matter of actual anti-trust legislation will be so delayed that the end of the session will find the situation such that no effective law will be likely of enactment, and, indeed, there may be the possibility of no enactment at all.

United action on the part of opponents of the trusts is absolutely imperative in order to make the Flavian policy of the trusts a ridiculous failure.

BLASTS FROM RAM'S HORN.

Humility is the prelude to honor. Humbleness is the mother of misery. Men need soft hearts in hard times. Gems are but pebbles without the grinding.

High pressure in society is apt to go with low pressure in piety. Our gains depend not on what we can get, but on what we can give.

The plant of piety will not live by being stuck in the soil of prayer about once a week.

The life wholly spent in the closet is as useless as the life without the closet is powerless.

If you hide your sins in the cellar they will be sure to make themselves known in the parlor.

The religious market will be dull as long as we preach No. 1 hard and practice screenings.

GETS A NEW DEAL.

Cards Stacked Too Early in the Game for the Judgship. Chicago Record-Herald. There seems to be a fine opportunity for political reform in Douglas county, Mo., where Judge Burgess of the state supreme court has issued a writ of ouster against Judge Burkhead of the circuit court. It appears that Judge Burkhead secured his nomination as the result of a game of cards. Burkhead is a republican, and he defeated George W. Thornberry, democrat, at the polls. Thornberry comes forward now with the claim that Burkhead and a man of the name of Bronson were rival candidates for the republican nomination. In order that there might be no contest in the convention, he says, they agreed to play a game of cards for the judgeship, the winner to pay the loser the sum of \$1,750 in cash.

Bronson won at cards, but when he went into the convention it was found that he could not secure the nomination. He then, according to the allegation, turned his votes over to Burkhead, who gave up the financial stake to Bronson. "The worst democrat rises now and virtuously declares that neither of his republican rivals is entitled to the seat, and that he ought to have it. Leaving that matter out of the question, it must be rather humiliating to the republicans of Douglas county, if the charges are true, to think that their votes could be played for at a card table as if they had been poker chips or three-for-five stogies.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "No, my husband never talks back." "Some impediment in his speech, ma'am?" "Yes, I'm the impediment."

Baltimore American: "Speech is silver," said the hardened cynic, "but a judicious silence properly distributed is the only thing that makes golden weddings possible."

Philadelphia Press: "I was thinking," said the old-fashioned young man, "of asking her father if I might pay my addresses to her." "I'm," mused the wise girl, "in this case I'd advise you to pay in advance."

Yonkers Statesman: Mrs. Church—Is your husband the kind of a man who believes in killing two birds with one stone?" Mrs. Gotham—Gracious, no! Why, he's president of the Audubon society!

Baltimore Herald: "When Jack proposed I suppose you asked him if you were the only girl he ever loved," asked Polly. "I should say not. I inquired if the other girls didn't regard you as the progression to his present ideal," said Dolly.

Detroit Free Press: Preacher—Well, now, I just made a splendid arrangement with a shoe dealer. His wife—About what, Ezra? Preacher—He has promised to buy all the slippers I get at Christmas at 50 cents a pair.

Chicago Post: "Do you admire mother-of-pearl?" "Hardly." "You don't?" "Certainly not, I married her, you know." "Married who?" "Why, Pearl, of course."

Somerville Journal: New Cook—Does the master like his beef well done?" Mrs. Higgins—Mr. Higgins says that his only requirement is to have his meat well cooked.

Washington Star: "Do you think such a plan as you are producing conveys any valuable suggestion to the intelligence?" "Yes," answered the manager, "people who see it once will know better than to attend another performance of it."

MISS OMAHA'S CHRISTMAS STOCKING.

Miss Omaha sits wondering What Santa Claus this year will bring. She knows from past experience Old Santa can be very dense. When one expects he'll understand What one's most urgent needs demand,

However, she has managed to Ride many Yuletides safely through, And so, though furrowed in with care, Her brow, she thinks not to despair. But reads the promise in the sky Of wishes realized—by and by.

For Santa's benefit we'll here Enumerate the things most dear To Mistress Omaha's big heart, That he may do his generous part. (For things he can't in time rush through Let Santa give his 10 U.)

An auditorium she wants; Her dresses Ak-Sar-Ben's, castle haunts; A temple for sweet music home; A market hall to call her own; More factories, shops, good tenements And cottages at lower rents.

Then cheaper power, light, heat needs and, And more street car facility; The paving of her streets made good, And asphalt substituting wood; More public spirit—enterprise; Less idle guys who just look wise.

Well, anyhow, she's hung it—mind, The biggest has Miss O. could find—Where Santa, when he makes his call, Most tumble in, reindeer and all. It's one one good side and one bad. Now, Santa Claus, it's up to you!

ALFRED MARSHNER.

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