

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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

And that reminds us that those business men juries no longer seem to have the call.

All the portents for the Colorado legislature indicate a blockade that will be anything but peaceful.

At all events, the controversy over the beginning of the century no longer overshadows the advent of the new year.

It is to be hoped that the impending drawing of the district court jurors for the year 1903 will prove a more profitable investment than the Auditorium gift enterprise.

It would seem that Missouri will be above such a thing, but a strong effort will be made to pass a "Jim Crow" street car law at the coming session of the legislature.

Colonel Watterson is now addressing himself to the Monroe doctrine, but without the same success as when tackling the Four Hundred or dressing down Grover Cleveland.

Governor Savage's recommendation to the legislature for the creation of a board of pardons will exemplify the old saw about locking the stable door after the horse is stolen.

If Mr. Frick makes himself understood, there is so much doing every day in his own business that he positively will not bother himself with running of the billion-dollar steel trust.

Having apparently choked off the power franchise ordinance that promised speedily to give Omaha cheap power, the eagerness of the council to pass the free-for-all blind has noticeably abated.

A contractor willing to put up money to get out of his agreement to supply the county with anthracite is in a paradoxical position. As a rule the aspirants for county contracts would be willing to put up money to get them.

The Union Pacific lockout has already worked incalculable injury to Omaha and Omaha business interests and its prolongation only makes matters worse. It is high time for the officials of that railroad to get down off their "nothing-to-arbitrate" stand.

It is now beginning to dawn upon the citizens' committees and Commercial club committees, that are trying to suggest charter amendments, that it will be unsafe for them to proceed without first securing the gracious consent of John N. Baldwin of Council Bluffs.

South Omaha has had a superabundance of Christmas mutton but South Omaha is not responsible for the extravagant stories sent out by yellow journal fakirs to eastern newspapers concerning the alleged roasting of 5,000 sheep within less than half an hour.

W. J. Bryan has reached the city of Mexico on his tour of recreation, but he had not passed out of the railroad depot more than ten minutes before he delivered himself of a discourse on free silver. Fortunately for the Mexicans Bryan cannot spout Spanish as fluently as a Texan spouter spouts the burning fluid.

The census for 1900 credits the city of St. Joseph with about the same population that it credits the city of Omaha, but the mortality lists for 1901 and 1902 show that Omaha had 1035 deaths against St. Joseph's 872, which affords the most conclusive proof of the enormous infatuation of the St. Joseph census.

Nobody has ever claimed that the climate of St. Joseph is more salubrious than that of Omaha, and as there have been no epidemics or unusual fatalities in Omaha within the last twelve months the divergence in the number of deaths in the two cities represent the correct ratio of their respective populations.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S COURSE.

The course of President Roosevelt in regard to the Venezuelan affair, while disappointing to the German government and perhaps also to the other European governments concerned, has undoubtedly strengthened foreign respect for him and increased confidence in the clearness and soundness of his judgment. The request of the allies that Mr. Roosevelt should act as arbitrator was a notable tribute, attesting complete faith in his integrity and sense of justice. It is a no less distinguished mark of high consideration for Mr. Roosevelt that the European governments accepted his proposal to submit the controversy to the arbitration of The Hague tribunal.

The German foreign secretary has pointed out that the course of the president is in strict accord with the view he expressed in his last annual message respecting The Hague court and one of the French members of that tribunal has expressed the opinion that Mr. Roosevelt's attitude saved the court from extinction. In a letter of congratulation the distinguished Frenchman speaks in hearty commendation of the president's services in reminding the European governments of their duty and says: "Honor to your government, which has understood that amidst the general abstention someone had to awaken the others from their lethargy and lead them forward in the way of justice and progress." That the earnest stand taken by our government in favor of submitting the Venezuelan issue to the international court of arbitration has given a stronger position to that tribunal is not to be doubted and the value of this is great.

Enlightened and conservative public opinion in this country approves the course of the national administration in the Venezuelan matter. It has been wise, prudent and in entire accord with the duty and obligations of the United States, continental and international. It succeeded because the European governments were compelled to realize the high and honorable motives that prompted it. There are some who think that our government should have urged arbitration before the European governments adopted coercive measures, but that would have been futile. The Venezuelan government was not disposed to seriously consider arbitration until the war vessels of Great Britain and Germany appeared on its coast. Only when Castro found that the foreign governments were in earnest did he conceive a real desire for arbitration. President Roosevelt and his advisers have made no mistake in this matter and their course has been distinctly helpful to American influence in Europe and should strengthen the claims of the United States to the confidence and good will of the southern republics.

HOPEFUL BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

While stringency will probably be felt in the eastern money centers for several weeks yet, the strong expectation of another prosperous year seems to be in all ways warranted. It is not now anticipated that the settlements usual at the opening of the year will be attended with any critical tension, which has for several months been a marked feature of the financial situation. It has materially depressed prices in the stock market, but without any disturbance seriously affecting actual values. Many of the ablest financiers regard the check which speculation has received as auspicious to an important degree for the substantial business of the country in the coming year. Great stress is properly put upon the existence of general confidence in conditions and prospects of industry, as in itself a fact of immense importance. It is manifested in plans and contracts already perfected for even greater expenditures in railroad construction than those of 1902, immense as the latter have been. The dominant note in the business world is actual preparation for extension, for activity and for larger operations, but free from chimerical and hazardous undertakings. The industrial horizon is unusually devoid of those indications of apprehension and contraction which mark the change from prosperity to a period of depression. At the close of the year the volume of production and exchanges is enormous and unprecedented, and the demand for all staples, agricultural and manufactured, unslackened on a scale of high and remunerative prices, while the tendency to higher wages involves the distribution of a larger share in 1903 to the wage-earning population—always a satisfactory sign. With solid credits in all legitimate undertakings, and with an abundant supply of sound money, there is every reason for courage and out-reaching enterprise.

FROM UNDER THE HAT.

It has been given out from under the hat that the republican members of the Douglas county delegation will resent any attempt on the part of representative citizens or committees of the commercial bodies to formulate amendments of a political tendency to the city charter. It has also been given out under the hat that the proposition to increase the number of councilmen would be regarded as a political amendment and, therefore, cannot be discussed without special permission. At the risk of being ruled out of order The Bee proposes to discuss this question not from a political point of view, but from the standpoint of good government and the public welfare.

When the present charter was framed five years ago Omaha was divided into five wards, with one councilman for each ward and nine councilmen-at-large, making in all eighteen councilmen. The abolition of the ward councilmen was made in the interest of a measure of economy and had no political bearing whatever. By restricting the selection of councilmen-at-large within the ward boundaries and limiting the number of wards the charter of 1903 virtually gave

the city nine ward councilmen. Experience has shown that ward councilmen elected at large are in no respect superior to men elected from their own wards.

The consensus of opinion now is that nothing has been gained and a great deal has been lost by the change from eighteen to nine councilmen. The difference in the amount of councilmanic salaries is comparatively trifling and does not offset the drawbacks of a close corporation council practically ruled by five members. It certainly is much easier to get up a combine of five than a combine of ten and eighteen members, or even fifteen members could be counted on to render a great deal more efficient service to the various interests and localities than is now rendered by nine members. In this respect the experience of Omaha does not differ materially from other cities of equal or larger populations.

The weakest feature of our charter is its lack of elasticity. The division of the city into nine wards regardless of area or population has been a sort of straight jacket. The twentieth century charter for Omaha should be framed on broader lines. The present subdivisions of voting districts is based on a presumed maximum of 900 voters, which doubtless will be continued until the voting machine takes the place of the present slow process of balloting, but there is no excuse or good reason for assigning six precincts to one ward and eleven precincts to another.

What is wanted is not merely uniform voting districts, but uniform voting wards with an average of six voting precincts to a ward. Such a recast would divide Omaha into about twelve wards. A fair and safe make-up of the city council would be one councilman from each of the twelve wards and six councilmen elected at large regardless of location, the entire number so subdivided as to tenure as to enable the city to elect one-third each year.

These suggestions have not yet been submitted to John N. Baldwin and we realize that without his permission we shall not be able to induce the delegation to consider them. The rank and file of the citizenship of Omaha will, we feel sure, however, be disposed to entertain the proposed change without resentment and regardless of whatever political consequences it might have in the dim and distant future.

ISTHMIAN CANAL COMMISSION.

The bill passed by congress making provision for an isthmian canal authorizes the president to appoint a commission composed of seven members, at least four of whom shall be learned and skilled in the practice of engineering. It also provides that the compensation of the commissioners shall be prescribed by the president until the same shall have been otherwise fixed by congress. The commissioners are to serve during the pleasure of the president. These will be desirable positions and there are many applicants, so that the president is likely to find the principal difficulty in selecting from the numerous capable men available.

Perhaps the fact that there are so many applicants is due to the expectation that the commission to be appointed will be as liberally compensated and otherwise provided for as the existing commission, created three years ago. The act authorizing this commission appropriated \$1,000,000 for salaries and expenses, more than two-thirds of which, according to an official statement, has been expended. It is understood that the chairman of the commission, Admiral Walker, has drawn \$15,000 a year as his salary and each of his associates on the commission has drawn \$12,000 a year. It is charged that employees under the commission, many of them sons of army and navy officers and of members of congress, have been receiving compensation beyond their availability for any practical purpose. In short, there appears to have been a lavish outlay of public money by the commission, although every cent may have been spent strictly within the lines of the law.

Congress will doubtless endeavor to get full information in regard to the expenditures of the existing commission and meanwhile the disposition is to provide against extravagance on the part of the commission to be appointed. A bill introduced by Senator Morgan proposes to fix the salary of the commissioners at \$5,000 a year and undoubtedly most people will agree with the Alabama senator that this is fair compensation for a position whose duties will not be particularly onerous or exacting and which will be of long tenure—practically a life office to a man over 50 years of age. Another provision of the Morgan bill which will be generally approved is the requirement that the payment of money on account of all expenditures, except for the salaries of officers, is to be made by paymasters of the army under all the legal obligations and all the penalties resting upon them.

The construction of an isthmian canal will require the expenditure of probable not less than \$200,000,000 and it may amount to considerably more than that. It is a large sum even for this wealthy country and there cannot be too many safeguards against waste or extravagance.

Omaha will be in evidence at the St. Louis World's fair. More than a year ago the exposition managers sent to Omaha for their head electrician and now they have picked out an Omaha man for head gardener. Whether the St. Louis exposition will import its head gardener from Omaha is problematic. There are yet a few men willing to wear gold braided caps and blue coats with brass buttons left in and around St. Louis.

Senator Vest's views on the trust question strikingly illustrate the incapacity of traditional democracy for dealing with the subject. After declaring that the Sherman trust act exhausts the constitutional powers and is utterly in-

efficient, he lays it down that states rights would have to be sacrificed in order to adequately amend the constitution, and states rights are dearer to the southern heart than the natural rights of man.

The annual report of the Union Pacific shows that the outstanding stocks of that company aggregate \$203,000,207 with a net funded debt of \$248,008,000, making a total capitalization of \$451,707,207. As all these securities are quoted on the market at or above par it is reasonable to assert that the value of the railroad property embraced in the Union Pacific is equal to its capitalization. The same report gives the aggregate amount paid out as taxes by the company for its fiscal year, 1902, at \$1,390,700, which is but slightly over 3 mills on the true value of the property reflected by the capitalization. What other property is there in the states traversed by this road that gets off with a tax of 3 mills on its valuation? What audacity for railroad officers to pretend that they are contributing in taxes their full share of the cost of government.

The report of the commissioner of patents shows no traceable tendency of the trusts to stifle invention. The trusts are just as eager to get hold of a good thing in the shape of a patent as any business firm or corporation. But then the trusts have enough to answer for even if this accusation is disproved.

The New Hampshire constitutional convention has adopted an amendment providing that no one "who is not now a voter" shall in future vote or hold office in that state "unless he is able to read and write the English language."

It is greatly to be feared that members of the military family of Governor Mickey will not have the same opportunities to disport themselves publicly in festive regalia as have been enjoyed by the staff artists to the present executive.

Heartless Squeeze of the Poor.

Kerosene oil can be bought in Boston today for 15 cents a gallon. Six months ago, before fuel began to be scarce because of the coal strike, it was sold for 10 cents a gallon. As people began to use it more generally for heating purposes, the price was advanced, a cent at a time, until when the greatest distress prevailed it was put up to 14 cents and now, in view of a continued fuel famine, it is made 15 cents. What is the cause of this increase of 50 per cent in the price of an article of universal necessity? Crude petroleum, from which kerosene is made, was never so cheap. The development of new oil territory has brought down the price of the raw material. The cost of manufacture is the same as before, or less. In a time of distress among the poor, kerosene at 10 cents a gallon would be a blessing and would save lives that are now sacrificed to insufficient warmth.

A Nation of Readers.

Whether the people of the United States read too much or too little they do read and there are statistics to show it. Leaving out of account the enormous circulation of the newspapers and magazines, the country press, of tremendous influence, the trade and class papers and the unclassified periodicals, the book consumption alone is sufficient to stamp the nation as a voracious one in a literary way. Four hundred thousand copies of one popular novel have been sold, 350,000 of another, a book for children has passed the 300,000 mark and several novels have reached a circulation near or beyond 100,000. These books of great popularity are invariably works of fiction; many of them of the historical class.

Grand Army of Titles.

The American people live and move and have their being in an atmosphere of harmless shams, many of which take form as titles and dignities. They are pure wind and mean nothing at all. There are judges who know nothing of law, who are doctors of laws, medicine, theology and philosophy who never even passed through the primary school, to say nothing of accumulating university degrees. There are colonels galore, generals not a few and a captain here and there who do not know the difference between a repeating rifle and an Australian's boomerang and never smelt gunpowder except on the Fourth of July.

Manufacturers in a Mad Race.

We can hardly account for the recent disposition in manufacturing quarters to throw discretion to the winds and force prices to the straining point. The 10 per cent advance in wages cannot justify the increase in the price of finished products by 20, 25 or 40 per cent. The only way these rising prices will be to force a crisis and an economic disturbance will again be precipitated. The pace set by the steel trust and the coal trust and the beef trust has been taken up in other quarters, probably under the theory that if it is to be done, it is better that it be done by the big and get what they can out of it.

Standardized Greed.

The Standard Oil company is credited with explaining that the increase of nearly 5 cents a gallon in the price of petroleum is due to the increased demand for oil for heating purposes. This furnishes no reason excepting the desire of the company to increase its enormous profits. But it cannot be charged to the tariff. This is one trust that owes nothing to a protective tariff.

Does the Consumer Benefit?

The cost of beef to the retailer is now from 4 to 6 cents cheaper than it was three months ago. So say the men who control the market. Has this welcome reduction been noticeable in the price to the consumer? If so it will leave him more with which to meet his coal bills.

AN ONCE OF PREVENTION.

Scientific Medicine a Striking Feature of Social Progress. Medical News. In looking over the history of the search for a means of cure, one is struck by the great value of the once of prevention. Keeping the germs out is in every way preferable to dealing with them after they have once entered the body. This fact scientific medicine is impressing more and more deeply on the minds of the public authorities and the people, and the response in the form of provisions for improved public and private sanitation is one of the striking features of the social progress of the present time. All the more enlight-

ened nations, states and cities of the world possess organized departments of health, which, with varying degrees of thoroughness, deal with the problems presented by the infectious diseases in the light of the latest discoveries.

Fifty years ago the term preventive medicine was unknown. Today it represents a great body of well tested and accepted principles. It has cleaned our streets; it has helped to build our model tenements; it has purified our food and our drinking water; it has entered our homes and kept away disease; it has prolonged our lives, and it has made the world a sweeter place in which to live.

PROSPEROUS AND GENEROUS.

Magnificent Fund Subscribed by Members of the Methodist Church. Chicago Tribune.

On the evening of December 31 there will be an impressive song and Trinity Methodist Episcopal church in Springfield, Mass. Bishop Fowler will be present. W. D. MacDowell, secretary of the Methodist board of education, will also be present. Neither of these two men, however, will get the interest and attention which will be given to a girl who, three years ago, was a presiding elder of excellent reputation but of no great renown. That man is Edmund M. Mills. On the evening of December 31, in Trinity church, at midnight, Dr. Mills will make the announcement of the \$20,000,000 Methodist fund offering fund.

For three years Dr. Mills has been giving the thank offering fund his whole time. His headquarters are said to look like a bank and a mail order house put together. The amount of speaking, writing and conferring which Dr. Mills' methods required has been tremendous. The executive officers of the Methodist church all have a push and dash which the promoters of Texas oil well companies look at with envy. Seligman, however, has any Methodist officer been able to look back at three years of greater accomplishment than those which Dr. Mills is now rounding out.

The ends to which the Methodists will apply their \$20,000,000 are interesting. There will be \$5,000,000 applied to education. Syracuse university and Ohio Wesleyan university will get over \$1,000,000 apiece. Education being thus aided, there will be about \$8,000,000 set aside for church indebtedness. There will also be a large sum for hospitals and another large sum for retired ministers. Such, at any rate, are the statements that have been given to the press.

The most significant fact with regard to the people who have contributed to the fund offering fund is that they are of the rank and file. Dr. Mills has reported few gifts of stupendous size. This is where the giving power of the Methodist church is explained. The members of that church are neither the sediments nor the froth of the modern world. They are mainly people who work hard, have steady, regular incomes, live temperately and spend little ostentatiously or superfluously. It is from such people the money can be raised. It is from such people that the Methodist \$20,000,000 has been raised. Of course, money is more plentiful now than it used to be and the social position of most members of the Methodist church, and 25,000,000 would have been in 1872. This has to be remembered. Even so, however, the present \$20,000,000 is a great achievement. The Methodists should have congratulations from their neighbors.

MONROE DOCTRINE OUT OF DATE.

A Wattersonian Blast Against a Chastised Institution. Louisville Courier-Journal. None of the conditions that made the Monroe doctrine a national safeguard remains to menace us. The greatest calamity that could happen to mankind would be a war between England, Germany and the United States. Considering what we are doing in the Philippines, and considering what are going to do in China, and considering what commercial imperialism is doing in Europe—mindful that a strong power may propose and accept what a weak power durst not—mindful of the advantage of close, friendly intercourse with England and Germany—why should we permit an unseemly jangling horn of a kind of superstition to stand between us and a better, clearer understanding with England and Germany not only as to the Monroe doctrine, but as to all our fiscal and tariff relations?

The Courier-Journal is an aggressive, progressive American. It is a democrat devoted to home rule, free trade and sailors' rights. If fighting be the alternative, it is jingo to the core. It addresses the bunting! It is on the bird. It fully comprehends the power of the great republic. While Europe doubted, we were for giving Europe its belly full of demonstration. Europe doubts no longer. England and Germany recognize us to the limit. That placates them. The man who is expansive, generous. Truth to say, after all, we are conscious of a snaking kindness for both John and Hans. Let us, therefore, at least come to a parley and see whether we may not reach some working agreement. We shall be no worse off after than before, being sure in advance that, if we want to fight, the fight should be pitched on high, noble, defensible ground, and whatever else betide, it should not be forced upon us by some fool with a gun, nor yet by senseless and indiscriminating clamor over a "doctrine" we ourselves whistled down the wind when we set up our eagle in the Philippines and carried the flag inside the sacred walls of Peking!

In short and in brief, we cannot hope to gobble up the earth. We want markets. We want amicable, intelligent neighborhood. The Latins are doomed, Spain dead, Italy dying and France down with an incurable disease, our two allies, our best friends, are our business rivals, England and Germany, and we should shape our foreign policy accordingly on just principles of give and take, of live and let live.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Time is money. A venturesome man can get \$1,000 by staying four rounds with Jim Jeffers.

Secretary Wilson will have to do some subtlety in the Philippines. The rice crop this year is a failure.

S. Morris Pool, who gets out the Patent Office Gazette every Tuesday, has been employed in the Patent office since 1857.

Nearly 50,000 letters for Santa Claus lie unclaimed in the New York postoffice. There is a beginning of a good mail order business for some one.

Now that Lord Rossini, who, by the way, admits that he is no squarer, has been advertised by German labels, he will be properly taken up by New York society, illustrating the sage saga which says: "There are stranger pets in our social sets than are seen in Central park."

Something over a year ago the German emperor issued his fat against French champagne and ever since then only German brands have been served at the imperial table. This usage was not gratefully received by army officers, who at their regimental dinners drank French wine from bottles designated in German labels. It is even said that on one occasion his imperial majesty dined with the officers of a regiment and drank the prohibited liquid without knowing it.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

An organized attack on the traction companies of New York for more cars and more room for passengers has reached proportions decidedly irritating, to penurious corporations. The movement was started by a woman's club and its object is to secure increased means of conveyance as well as diminish the danger to person, cloth and morals under present conditions. It has interested the governor of the state, the mayor of the city, the Board of Aldermen, the railroad commission, the president of the five boroughs, the law officials of the city, ministers, labor unions, hundreds of private citizens and forty-seven lawyers. As is customary when a corporation is up against it, the street railway people are ready to knuckle down, provided the city authorities relax certain laws and grant increased police protection.

The policemen of the Broadway squad are looking for a blonde young woman who has been buncing them, relates the Sun. The squad, as is known, guards the crossings on Broadway and is the public escort of every lone woman. A lone woman who appears two weeks ago at Broadway and Twenty-third street and was escorted through a maze of vehicles, suddenly gasped and clutched at the side of her dress where a chateleine bag might hang. "You're ill!" asked the Broadway cop. "Yes," she said quickly, "but my purse has been stolen. What shall I do? How shall I get home? Oh, officer, I live in Brooklyn. Can't you please lend me a quarter? I'll return it to you tomorrow."

This particular cop handed over the quarter and the woman returned to her quarters till Saturday, when he overheard two of his fellows comparing notes in the Tenderloin station house and telling each other who they had each sent a quarter to a good-looking blonde young woman who had been robbed of her purse.

Other members of the squad were asked if they had met the woman and most of them admitted they had given a quarter to a woman answering the description. The only member of the squad reporting at the Tenderloin station who got the best of the woman was Ed McCabe, who guards the Thirty-second street crossing.

He got the lost pocketbook tale with a couple of tears on the side. He also got the "brace" for the quarter. He told the woman he didn't think he had a quarter. He put his hand in his pocket and drew out a single nickel. The woman glared at him and told him he ought to be dismissed for insulting a woman. Then she departed.

"I had more money, but I didn't flash it," said McCabe. "I always keep a lone nickel to steer off touches. I get so many on my crossing that I wouldn't have any salary coming if I fell for them all."

"And divil a wan of us paid a cent for his yellow sheld," said one of the fifty-seven policemen, who temporarily Partridge made police sergeants just before his retirement. The old price was \$4,000. If the last quarters are to be trusted, fifty-seven at \$4,000 is \$228,000 that nobody will get. The fifty-seven shook hands, pinched themselves and said in an ominous tone: "It is a dream! Then walkin' would be pain. O, do not wake. Let me dream again."

Among them were grizzled veterans of the force who had entered into five or six previous examinations and had always been turned down in spite of their fine records, because they would not give up. Sergeant George R. Holahan of the DeKalb avenue station, Brooklyn, and Robert E. Dooley of the Coney Island station were promoted to be captains and seven captains were transferred.

During the noon hour, when the crush at Fulton street and Broadway is at its worst, relates the Evening Post, a little old woman rushed in front of a cab waving her umbrella frantically at a car that had just started after hitting on a passenger.

The conductor rang the bell, fearing the woman would be caught in the crush of vehicles, and the car stopped so suddenly that the one following bumped into it. Reaching out to help the woman on the car, the conductor was not a little "jarred" to see her stop near the car and address a young man who was on the platform.

"How are you, John?" she asked. "Pretty well, Aunt Louisa," replied the passenger.

"And how is Mary?" "So-so," he replied.

"And has Minnie got over the mumps?" "Pretty nearly."

"Step dively," broke in the conductor, recovering from his surprise.

"Oh, I didn't want to get on the car," blantly replied the little old woman.

"So-so," he replied. "The car has lurched forward and the old woman exclaimed: "Such impudence! These conductors seem to think they own the town."

HEROISM OF TODAY.

An Instance Proving the Spirit of Knighthood Still Survives. Saturday Evening Post.

In an age of materialism, when at times it seems as if the world forgot many of the cardinal virtues and was only interested in gaining its own selfish end, every once in a while some humble person does that which appeals to the emotions and shows that the spirit of knighthood still survives. When a man or a woman risks his or her life, not for any personal advantage or for fame, but because it is a matter of duty, then we know that heroism is not dead and that the great opportunity will always produce the one person required for the emergency.

A few weeks ago General Chaffee sent to the War Department an official report calling attention to the heroic conduct of Alice Kemmer, an army nurse then on duty in the Philippines. Nurse Kemmer had been granted leave of absence and was about to avail herself of a well-earned rest from official duties when two soldiers were taken down with smallpox and removed to the isolation hospital. Alice Kemmer had never had one of the most dreadful diseases with which poor humanity is afflicted, but she did not falter. For two long months she devotedly nursed these men back to health, living all the while weeks with them as their sole companion, the weather intensely hot and her sleep so broken that never at any time during that long period was she able to have more than two hours rest. Probably Alice Kemmer, army nurse, thinks she has merited some honor and cannot understand why General Chaffee should lavish on her such un stinted praise, but that is the way of heroes. They do what is required of them because it is their duty to do it, and they think neither of themselves nor of any possible reward that may come to them. It is probable that this devoted woman will gain no material recompense for the sublime act of self-renunciation, as the government of the United States is singularly bigoted in its recognition of heroes in humble places, but she will not be unconscious of the estimation in which she is held by her fellow countrymen, and it is believed that she has set may be an inspiring example to men and women; to soldiers at the front and to soldiers in the greater army of peace, who sometimes, growing weary under the heat and burden of the day, will find renewed hope and courage when they recall the story of Nurse Kemmer.

TALK OF THE STATE PRESS.

Norfolk Press: There will be no inauguration ball and frills when Governor Mickey takes his seat. That's the best way to start a business administration.

Lions Sun: Although not yet officially installed, Governor Mickey has made it clear that he has well defined convictions and that he intends to remain true to them.

Beatrice Sun: The president has announced that there would be no disposition of the district attorneyship of Nebraska until the senators agree on a man. Now, if Mr. Summers can keep the senators disagreeing he will have a dead end.

Grand Island Independent: It is pretty much Governor-elect Mickey's own business whether he wants a ball or not in connection with the inaugural exercises. The people of the state are not much interested anyway. They are not concerned unless it were in the reduction of a slight item of expense, for that, again, they would not care a rap if the ball were held for the benefit of a few of the poorest of the capitol city. But the main display of the capitol city.

Geneva Signal: The Signal hopes that Governor Mickey will move with caution in making changes in the heads of state institutions, and it is moved to express this hope because of the rumors in regard to the alleged probability of the removal of Dr. Beghtol from the superintendency of the Kearney school. We have no personal acquaintance with the doctor or knowledge of the success of his superintendency, but we have heard only the most flattering reports in connection with his work at the school.

Wood River Interests: Lincoln swindlers are greatly cast down over the announcement that there will be no inaugural ball this year. Governor-elect Mickey is a strict Methodist and dancing, card playing and other devices supposed to ensnare and lead from the path of duty, the young and frivolous will not be countenanced by him. We may not agree with the governor in his conclusions, but if them his sentiments and convictions we admire his official acts are saying so and staying by it. We don't have much use for the man that can't say yes and no. Too many men have angle worms for back bones.

Callaway Queen: Governor Savage has at last come to the conclusion that a pardoning board would be a good thing for this state. This writer is of the same opinion, and more so, and has no objection to the suggestion in print. If the coming legislature wants to do something worth doing, let it appoint a committee of five to act as a pardoning board, said board to meet at least twice each year for the purpose of looking over and passing upon petitions for pardon, the members of said board to draw pay only for actual service, or for service rendered during these meetings. The judgment of five men is better than that of one in a case of this kind, and the extra expense of the state used to be anything great. It's a good thing, and should be pushed along.

Central City Nonpareil: There is some unnecessary commotion over the fact that Governor Mickey declines to lend his presence to the inaugural ball proposed by the Lincoln Commercial club. It is no respect him less for the action; consistency is a jewel so seldom found in modern politicians and officeholders that it is positively refreshing to see a governor who takes his religion down to Lincoln with him and remains true to his own convictions of what is right and wrong regardless of criticisms and jeers. A public official should be allowed to live his own private life in consistency with his personal convictions; his official acts are public property, but his private life is his own. If Mr. Mickey did not believe in dancing before he was elected he acts very properly in discountenancing it now, even if by so doing he is compelled to disarrange the plans of the leaders of Lincoln's bon ton social set.

FADING SMILES OF 1902.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Sometimes I think so hard it makes me tired."

Washington Star: "Do really useful work," said Uncle Eben, "is one dat lota his money he 'im talk when he goes aroun, sayin' 'dey 'frink' to de 'pe' folk."

Yonkers Herald: The Chorus Girl—He told me my future home would be in New York. The Sourette—I always told you you'd be a star some day.

Chicago Post: "And what is there so remarkable about her?" "She doesn't talk she could improve on the training of other people's children."

Philadelphia Press: "Whose do you consider the brightest children you know?" "What?" "Excuse me. I didn't know you were a family man. I mean the rest to the brightest."