

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, City of Omaha.

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The city assessment roll will now have to run the gauntlet of the Board of Equalization.

It has been pretty cold the last few days, but it has not been cold enough to warrant a requisition on the memories of the oldest inhabitant.

If the Real Estate exchange would trim its tax reduction telescope on the county building it would discover a very large field for retrenchment.

Omaha democrats will nominate their candidates for city offices on Valentine's day. Most of them—if not all of them—are pretty sure to draw nothing but coals.

Nebraska legislators have plenty of recommendations before them. Responsibility for action, however, rests upon the members of the two houses and can not be shifted.

Both coal operators and coal miners have agreed on the statements of miners' wages submitted to the coal strike arbitrators. But this is the only thing they have agreed on so far.

Just now Kansas is represented in the national legislature by two congressmen. The other five are at Topeka watching the senatorial fight, in which four of them are candidates.

The conference between President Burt and the Union Pacific machinists and boiler makers in the month of January will not be quite as warm as it might have been in the month of July.

Mark it down that the railroads will not pay any more taxes into the city treasury than they have to and the only way to get them to bear their share of the burdens of city government is to force the issue.

Governor McMullin of Tennessee thinks all that is necessary to curb the trusts is to appropriate more money to pay lawyers to invoke the courts to enforcement of existing laws. It is needless to add that Governor McMullin is a lawyer.

The World-Herald warns democrats against nominating a minion of the corporations for mayor. But when the man the corporations most want is placed at the head of the democratic city ticket, it will swallow him without blinking.

County Commissioner Connolly is planning a political suspension bridge between the court house and the city hall, which will enable him to cross from the basement of the county building to the mayor's office in the city building.

The latest objection to the proposed merger of Omaha and South Omaha is that the stationery, soap and pepsin labels and tin cans fabricated for the packing houses bear the Magic city stamp and consequently would become a drug on the houses in case of annexation.

Every governor's message to every legislative body now in session devotes attention to the questions of revenue revision and tax reform. The issue is not confined to any one state. Never before have the people everywhere been so thoroughly aroused to the necessity for more equitable distribution of tax burdens. Nebraska must not be the last to answer the call.

President Castro of Venezuela is said to be disappointed that the United States did not come to his help in keeping his European creditors at bay. President Castro can not have much confidence in the validity of the offsets asserted against the European claims or he would appreciate more the service rendered by President Roosevelt in assuring Venezuela an opportunity to have the whole case heard and passed upon by the Hague tribunal.

CONGRESS LIKELY TO ACT.

The insistence of President Roosevelt that there should be anti-trust legislation by the present congress promises to have the desired result. It is assured that an anti-trust bill will pass the house of representatives, based on the plan submitted by Attorney General Knox and having the support of the administration. The outlines of such a measure have already been published and have received pretty general commendation, though in the opinion of some less drastic than the conditions require. It is not the policy of the administration, however, to adopt a revolutionary or destructive course in dealing with the combinations, the effect of which would be injurious to the entire industrial system of the country, and it is believed that intelligent public sentiment is in accord with this. Men who have given serious and unprejudiced thought to the question recognize the danger that might result from its reckless treatment and incline to conservatism. They agree with Senator Hoar that it is wise to go slow, step by step, lest by rash and radical measures the entire industries of the country be paralyzed and our progress and prosperity halted.

WHILE IT CAN BE CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED THAT AN ANTI-TRUST BILL WILL PASS THE SENATE, IT IS TO BE REGARDED AS PROBABLE.

Senator Hoar will make an earnest effort to secure action upon his measure, but according to Washington advices it is not regarded with much favor in the senate and it seems doubtful if it will have the support of a majority of the senate judiciary committee, of which Mr. Hoar is chairman. However, it is not to be assumed that in the event of this bill not being accepted there will be no action by the senate on the subject. It is not improbable that most of the republicans of that body recognize as fully as do those of the house of representatives the earnestness of the public demand for additional legislation dealing with the trusts and also the popular approval of the president's insistence that the present congress can and should provide such legislation. It is not believed that there will be any very strenuous opposition to anti-trust legislation on the part of the democrats of the senate. They will of course urge the removal of tariff duties on trust-made articles, merely as a political move, but they will hardly attempt to defeat legislation, since that would clearly be to the disadvantage of their party.

THE PROSPECT, THEREFORE, APPEARS FAVORABLE TO THE ENACTMENT OF A LAW AT THE PRESENT SESSION SUPPLEMENTING THE EXISTING STATUTES AND GIVING THE GOVERNMENT BROADER LATITUDE AND GREATER AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH THE COMBINATIONS ENGAGED IN INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE.

WANT RECIPROCITY.

The manufacturers of Wisconsin have just organized a state association and among the objects in view is that of promoting commercial reciprocity. In his address the president of the association said that a subject of great importance is the establishment of reciprocal relations with foreign countries, through which their manufactures may be permitted to enter this country at a reduced tariff, upon condition that the manufactured products of America are accorded the same privilege. He suggested that our relations with the British provinces of the north require thoughtful attention. This expression of northwestern manufacturers favorable to the principle of reciprocity is not without interest and significance and possibly will not be altogether without weight at Washington. It undoubtedly reflects a quite general sentiment among manufacturers of the northwest, who while opposed to general or sweeping changes in tariff schedules, believe that such a policy of reciprocity was advised by McKinley and is a well recognized republican principle could be adopted with advantage to our foreign trade and necessarily with benefit to our industries. There appears to be a very strong probability that this sentiment will grow and the demand for commercial reciprocity may figure very prominently in the next national campaign, unless in the meantime there should be action by congress favorable to it. There is little prospect of anything being done at the present session, but those who are opposing the policy will do well to note the declaration of the association of Wisconsin manufacturers.

SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED.

There should be a thorough investigation of the course of the anthracite coal-carrying roads in the matter of transporting coal, as proposed by the resolution of Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio. This calls for an inquiry into the elements and conditions involved in the coal-carrying trade supplying the North Atlantic states, the cost of coal, the methods, facilities and cost of transportation and distribution of the same, and the reasons and causes of the scarcity and distress in those states. While such an investigation would perhaps have no immediate remedial effect upon the situation, it would be valuable in determining the question whether or not there are combinations or conspiracies between the coal-carrying roads. There is no doubt in the public mind that a combination of those roads exists, under which transportation is regulated and charges arranged upon the community of interest basis. It cannot reasonably be doubted that these roads have conspired to keep coal from the markets, not only of the Atlantic states but elsewhere, since the resumption of mining, ten weeks ago. In that time the production of coal has not been less than 12,000,000 tons, but not all of it has been marketed. The output has had no apparent effect in breaking the famine and the price of coal has been considerably advanced. In view of such facts it is impossible to believe that

CONSPIRACY DOES NOT EXIST TO KEEP COAL FROM THE PEOPLE AND TO WRING FROM THEM EXORTIONATE PRICES.

It is true that the coal-carrying companies have shown less capacity than the independent operators, who with brutal frankness declare their purpose to get all they can for their coal, regardless of how much public suffering their greed may entail, yet it is entirely certain that the existing situation is very largely due to the policy of the coal-carrying roads. The matter calls for a searching investigation and this can best be done by a congressional committee.

COMPULSORY MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

All streams run through the democratic mill race. The attempt to turn the Howell water works purchase bill into the municipal campaign in the interest of the democratic ticket will surprise nobody. The animus of the bill is manifest on its face. Mr. Howell has a long standing grievance against the present owners of the water works and hopes to get even by his compulsory purchase bill. The only question is whether his scheme would be for the benefit of the city or the profit of the water company. The city of Omaha has a right to purchase the works this year and every year hereafter until 1908 without paying a dollar for the franchise. If Howell has his way the city would be compelled to pay for the franchise as well as for the tangible property. On those terms the company, we feel sure, would cheerfully sell out, but the city might have to pay anywhere from one to two millions more than the plant could be duplicated for.

THE QUESTION NATURALLY PRESENTS ITSELF. WHY SHOULD THE POWER OF THE LEGISLATURE BE INVOKED TO COMPEL THE CITY OF OMAHA TO BUY THE WATER WORKS?

The question naturally presents itself. Why should the power of the legislature be invoked to compel the city of Omaha to buy the water works? The purchase of the water works unless the conditions of the purchase are satisfactory? The right of the city to assume the ownership of the water works is already expressly guaranteed by the charter, but the mode of acquiring the property is left to the judgment of the municipal authorities. Under the present charter the city voted three millions of bonds for the purchase of the works three years ago. If the amount voted is insufficient the city has a right to submit a revised bond proposition at the coming city election or at a special election for the additional amount required. There is no more reason why the municipal ownership should be made compulsory in the matter of the water works than in the matter of gas works, electric lighting works, or for that matter the street railways and telephones.

THERE IS NO MORE REASON WHY THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO APPOINT A WATER WORKS PURCHASE COMMISSION FOR OMAHA THAN THERE WOULD BE FOR HIM TO APPOINT A COMMISSION TO PURCHASE PARKS OR A COMMISSION TO MANAGE AN ELECTRIC POWER PLANT IF A MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE WERE GRANTED FOR SUCH A CONCERN.

On broad gauge lines the principle of municipal ownership of public utilities is sound, but the property owners and taxpayers of every community should have the right to decide for themselves how much they are willing to pay and how much they do not want to pay, when to buy and under what conditions they shall create a public debt in payment of existing public utility plants owned by private corporations, or whether they shall build, own and operate their own water works in case the price asked for a corporation-owned concern is excessive. In any event, an issue that involves an addition of from three to six millions to the city's bonded debt should not be thrust into the campaign as a partisan issue.

THE ELECTION BOARD OF THE AUDITORIUM COMPANY APPEARS TO BE UP AGAINST IT, TO USE THE VULGAR PHRASE. IT IS EXPECTED TO AWARD A PRIZE ON THE TOTAL VOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR, BUT CANNOT TELL HOW MANY OF THE VOTES RECORDED BLANK AND SCATTERING WOULD BE BLANK OR SCATTERING.

THE CONTENTION THAT A MAN WHO RECEIVES VOTES IS NOT A CANDIDATE UNLESS HE IS FORMALLY NOMINATED BY SOME POLITICAL PARTY IS, OF COURSE, ILLOGICAL, BECAUSE IN THAT EVENT IF THERE WERE NO PARTY NOMINATIONS WE WOULD HAVE TO CONCLUDE THERE WERE NO CANDIDATES, ALTHOUGH SOMEONE WOULD BE ELECTED JUST THE SAME.

IT MAY BE THE ONLY SAFE WAY IS TO CALL ALL BETS OFF AND REFUND THE MONEY.

ONE PROMINENT MEMBER OF CONGRESS INSISTS THAT DISCRIMINATION IN FREIGHT RATES IS THE BASIC CAUSE OF TRUST EVILS AND POINTS TO THE FACT THAT THE MOST ONEROUS TRUSTS HAVE FATTENED ON RAILWAY FAVORS IN THE SHAPE OF FREIGHT REBATES.

His remedy is repeal of the anti-pooling clause of the interstate act. Assuming that the diagnosis is correct, what would insure relief from the remedy proposed. If railroad discriminations have not been prevented, the trouble surely is not traceable to the anti-pooling clause half so much as to the willful violation of other sections of the interstate law and of the Sherman law by the railway rate makers.

NOTWITHSTANDING REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY IT IS GIVEN OUT AUTHORITY THAT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAS NO INTENTION TO MIX INTO THE SENATORIAL ELECTION IN UTAH, BUT WILL ADHERE TO THE ESTABLISHED POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN PURELY STATE POLITICS.

Utah ought to be able to solve its own senatorial problem without the aid of outside parties. Even if Utah were unable to reach a conclusion, it would be only half as bad off as Delaware without representation in the senate—yet the president has not felt called on to take a hand in the Delaware contest.

IF THE STATE SENATE IS JUSTIFIED IN APPOINTING SIXTY-SIX MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO ITS EMPLOY PAYROLL THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES TO WHICH THE HOUSE WOULD BE ENTITLED AT THE SAME RATE WOULD BE AN EVEN TWO HUNDRED. AS A

MAJORITY OF FACT THIRTY EMPLOYEES IN THE SENATE AND FIFTY IN THE HOUSE WOULD BE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO RUN ALL THE ERRANDS, GUARD THE DOORS AND CLOAK ROOMS AND DO ALL THE CLERICAL WORK FOR THE COMMITTEES WITHOUT OVERTIME.

Three preachers, two bank presidents and one policeman took an active part in the seizure and confiscation of sixteen carloads of coal on the Illinois Central tracks at Arcola, Ill., Saturday. The question naturally forces itself upon the popular mind whether stealing coal from a railroad or a coal dealer has ceased to be a crime or a sin, or whether the eighth commandment has been suspended so far as it relates to the theft of coal.

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE VARIOUS NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF LIVE STOCK MEN NOW IN SESSION AT KANSAS CITY THREATEN TO OUTDO ALL OTHERS IN POINT OF NUMBERS.

They go to emphasize the immense proportions to which live stock interests have attained in recent years and the perfection with which they are rapidly being organized in all their branches.

HARD KNOCKS FROM KNOX.

After the horrible example of Mr. Knox, the trusts may be relied on to oppose the appointment of any more corporation lawyers to the office of attorney general.

A SHOCK TO SOCIETY.

Schwab will pay \$150,000 for two bronze figures representing "Labor" and "Metalurgy" to decorate his new house in New York. How can he hope to break into society after making this concession to labor?

LEADING UP TO TROUBLE.

New York World. Rear Admiral Evans wants more men behind his guns. More guns more men, more ships, more money. When it is finished we shall probably see more fighting.

DON'T KNOW A GOOD THING.

San Francisco Call. And now the French are complaining that Americans have cornered the leather markets of the world and raised the price of shoes in Paris, and yet it would seem that almost any Frenchman ought to be willing to pay a good price to be in our shoes.

SCRAMBLING FOR THE LIMIT.

Baltimore American. A proposed amendment to the constitution limiting private fortunes to ten millions will not affect the large majority of the millionaires in this country. The limit would be not so much to fight the limit to come within several million dollars of it.

THE NEXT SEEDERS.

New Orleans Picayune. We of the south no longer dream of separate national existence. Our wealth and power and material greatness are to be gained in the union and in it we mean to stay until we dominate it as we did in its early decades. Therefore no more secession for the south. Next time it may be New England that will want to secede.

CAUSE OF MUNICIPAL CORRUPTION.

St. Louis Republic. Responsibility for municipal corruption rests in a majority of cases with the public. Now and then an honest man becomes dishonest after election, but as a rule voters know candidates well enough to cast their ballots intelligently. The characters, propensities and affiliations of candidates are foretellers whom the common law remedies should be brought to bear upon. Oh, there will never be a proper balancing of accounts until 'hot storage' hereafter shall sponge out the sore for 'cold storage' here and now!

COLD STORAGE A DEVIL'S TRICK.

Philadelphia Record. "Cold storage," said a philosopher who occasionally gives the Record the benefit of his observations, "is an invention of the devil. If it were not for this device the trusts could not corrupt the market for beef, mutton, poultry, fish and eggs. Their surplus meats would rot before they could dispose of them in foreign markets. They are enabled to freeze out the proper working of the law of supply and demand. They are foretellers whom the common law remedies should be brought to bear upon. Oh, there will never be a proper balancing of accounts until 'hot storage' hereafter shall sponge out the sore for 'cold storage' here and now!"

THE SOCIALIST VOTE.

Extent and Distribution Present Significant Feature. New York Tribune. One of the subjects worthy of study in the returns of the last election is the extent and distribution of the socialist vote. In twenty-nine of the forty-five states candidates representing one body or another of the socialists were before the people, and received about 250,000 votes. They won three members of the legislature in Massachusetts and five in Montana. In several cities in the last few years they have also had considerable success on the local level. Their parties are variously called socialist, socialist labor, social democrat. Some are more extreme in their views than others, but all are agreed upon a change in the political and industrial organization of society along the lines of the philosophy of Marx and Liebknecht.

As might be expected, the socialists are almost entirely confined to the north, though they are not confined to the great centers of population. A handful of them are found in Texas, in Pennsylvania 27,000, in Illinois 25,000, in Wisconsin 15,000, in Ohio 17,000, in Michigan 15,000, in California 9,500, in Indiana 8,700, in New Jersey 5,000 and in Michigan 5,000. All these states have great industrial centers and large foreign-born populations. New York, likewise, gave about 40,000 votes to socialist candidates, except candidates for governor, who suffered to the extent of 15,000 votes from Mr. Cole's popularity with socialists and from the democratic declaration of government ownership of the coal mines. We find socialism manifesting itself also in the wholly agricultural states. Its vote in Kansas was 4,900, in Iowa 4,000, in Nebraska 3,000, in North Dakota 1,000, in South Dakota 2,700, in Utah 3,000, in Washington 5,000 and in Oregon 5,000. These figures suggest that with the decadence of populism some of its more radical elements, instead of drifting back into the old parties, have gone on in the way they had started, and ended up as socialists. Certainly in these prosperous rural states there is none of that pressure of fact life, with its close labor organizations, which in the cities offer such opportunities for the socialist propaganda. Socialism there must be founded on pure theory or on a different sort of discontent from that of the town wage earner. It reflects the granger side of the anti-trust feeling.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot.

Long bridge, spanning the Potomac at Washington, over which hundreds of thousands of soldiers marched during the civil war, has outlived its usefulness and will be torn down within a few weeks. The new Pennsylvania railroad bridge, 100 feet from Long bridge, is nearing completion and when finished, some time this year, will receive the tracks now on the historic structure. The new bridge will be about 500 or 600 feet longer than Long bridge. On the Virginia side the first pier is directly opposite the south abutment of Long bridge. This is a difference of about 250 feet and the same is true on the Washington side.

The bridge is the property of the Pennsylvania railroad and will be used only by the trains of that road. There will be no walkways or driveways on it. Only two railroad tracks, one for the north and the other for the southbound trains, will be built. The memorial bridge which will take the place of Long bridge will be erected about a quarter of a mile west of the Pennsylvania railroad bridge. With its completion Long bridge will be torn down and one of Washington's old landmarks will have passed into history.

In the senate restaurant the kitchen is located in the basement. The dining room is on the first floor and all eating and drinking delicacies must be brought up from the kitchen by a dumb waiter. The colored waiter who calls out the orders to the cook below is far from dumb and his voice usually rings through the restaurant with entire disregard for the fame and dignity of the patrons of the establishment. The manner of a Fourth street "beanery" in St. Louis. If the patron is a good customer of the restaurant his name is usually given with the order, so that extra care will be exercised in its preparation. Senator Nelson, of the most temperate and moderate persons of the restaurant, dropped in for luncheon with some Minnesota friends. There were four in the party and the round table at which they sat was separated from the table of Senator Scott by a large pillar and roof support, so as to hide it from the view of the West front. The colored waiter got the order and dashed over to the dumb waiter. He called out: "A piece of mince pie, a piece of custard pie, a small steak, a pot of beans, some sliced onions, and let it come quick for Senator Nelson." Scott gasped and called out: "Waiter, add to that 'and a doctor,' for the senator will surely need one."

As to military questions, says the Washington Post, Senator Spooner of Wisconsin sometimes displays knowledge that surprises his colleagues. The senator saw military service during the early '60s, rising to the distinguished rank of Wisconsin regiment. Since then he has developed such versatility in handling big matters before congress that the fact of his military training has been forgotten.

An old plainsman from the northwest, who has long been present at claims before the senate, insisted that he had performed certain services under the direction of General Gibbon, who was the drill master of the famous Iron brigade, beginning his work of Meridian hill, in this city, and continuing it till the component regiments were recognized as infantry to none in the union army. One day this claim was under consideration and brought out the statement of services under General Gibbon. "Where is the order for it?" inquired Senator Spooner. The reply was returned that it was verbal only. "General Gibbon never gave directions or orders for anything to be done except in writing," retorted Senator Spooner. The claim of the plainsman is still awaiting favorable action by the senate.

Representative McDermott of New Jersey and Cochran of Missouri were arguing as to the qualifications of the federal bench. Mr. Cochran contending that a majority of them should not have the positions they hold, and Mr. McDermott insisting that, with few exceptions, they are eminent lawyers. After a particularly bitter tirade by Mr. Cochran, Mr. McDermott rose and said: "Why, Cochran, if I listen to you much longer I'll have so little respect for the judiciary that I'll walk into the supreme court chamber with my hat on."

Representative Sibley of Pennsylvania is the most enthusiastic chauffeur in congress. He owns automobiles that are great and small and fast and slow; besides, he owns a full outfit of automobile paraphernalia, including jackets, caps, gloves and goggles. One day during the holiday shopping season he stopped in front of one of the large stores to allow a lady to alight whom he had brought downtown. His machine was standing at the head of a line of carriages when the policeman cried him. One day during the holiday shopping season he stopped in front of one of the large stores to allow a lady to alight whom he had brought downtown. His machine was standing at the head of a line of carriages when the policeman cried him. "You'll have to take the lady's carriage out of there and get in the right place in the line. Hurry up now." "But—" the congressman began. "Don't take time to talk back," shouted the policeman, "but get out of there." The congressman "got out," according to orders. "I did not feel so bad over being taken for a professional," he said in telling his experience, "because from the way I was toggled out no one would have suspected I was a congressman. I was a chauffeur, but what made me mad was that the policeman would not let me explain. It looked as if he was applying the house rules to P street."

"Uncle Joe" Cannon's committee on appropriations has taken the big cutglass chandelier which for years was in the east room of the White House and it now hangs in the committee room. Representative Champ Clark of Missouri, when he saw it for the first time today, told a story of a meeting of the deacons of the country church in his state to buy a chandelier. Few of them knew exactly what a chandelier was. "I think we'd better pay of the mortgage on the church," said one member. "That's what I think, too," said another. "Even if we got one of them chandeliers I don't reckon none of our congregation could play on it."

"That's the way it is with that big cutglass affair in the committee room," said Mr. Clark. "There's plenty of daylight in the room, and I don't see how they're ever going to play on it, as congress seldom meets at night."

Americanization of Mexico.

National Magazine. Within the next ten years agricultural industries in the republic of Mexico will produce greater profits than its mines of silver and gold and its smelters combined. During the past few years over \$50,000,000 of American capital has been invested in the republic and this figure will be greatly exceeded in the next five years. Mexico's mountains and hills are overrun with prospectors from the states; the valleys and low lands are being invaded by an army of American farmers and there are always men and their resources are being subjected to rigid inspection by men who stand ready to spend vast sums in developing them. The Mexico of twenty, even ten years ago, is gone to return no more, and the awakening of a nation is being accelerated by the pouring of foreign capital in a rapidly increasing volume.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LEGISLATURE.

Hartington Herald: The Nebraska legislature has begun its grind. The people of the state have every reason to look forward to a business session of that body.

Tobias Express: The lawmakers will find plenty to do this winter, and as the republicans have full control, we may confidently look for some sensible and helpful legislation.

David City Banner: We hope to see some good and wholesome legislation enacted during this session and feel confident that Butler county will be heard from during the session.

Kearney Hub: The demand for a state normal school nearer the central portion of the state is a long-remembered one. Nebraska and not from ambitious towns of time-serving politicians. This is a point that the members of the legislature will doubtless remember when the time comes for action.

Central City Nonpareil: There seems to be a sentiment prevailing over the state that the legislature should provide good service by passing as few new laws as possible. It is not likely that this sentiment will be listened to, however, as it seems to be a confirmed habit of all legislative bodies to enact all the measures possible.

Minden Gazette: It is to be hoped that the legislature will take such action in the matter of normal schools as will put an end to the time wasted during each session in killing off bills introduced for the location of such a school in nearly every town in the state. They are good things, but we do not need too many of them. Better have just one or two well located.

Norfolk Press: The republican majority in both branches is overwhelming and the party must shoulder the responsibility for all laws enacted and expenditures authorized. It will therefore be a necessity that care must be exercised by the majority that legislation be of the best. The measures that are vicious or oppressive in their nature shall be defeated. Appropriations should provide for everything that is needed, but nothing that is extravagant.

Premont Tribune: The legislature might profitably adopt the suggestion of Governor Mickey relative to the creation of a state account to check up on the state institutions and audit their books. That is a good business idea. Most successful private and public affairs are conducted on that plan. If adopted it would inspire greater efficiency in the management of the institutions. It would also check up on the economy and prevent scandals. By all means let the legislature put in force this valuable suggestion.

Alliance Times: The first message of Nebraska's new governor, John H. Mickey, is given to the people of the state, and as was to be expected, it is a plain business document. One of the radical reforms he advises the legislature to adopt is the assessment of property at its real value. The governor favors the establishment of an experimental farm, to be under the direction of the State university, at some point in the western part of the state. The advice is wise, and near Alliance would be just the place for such an enterprise.

Nebraska City Tribune: The history of legislation is largely the uprooting of the legislation passed by the preceding session and the passage of 10 per cent of new matter. To do this up and weed out the old legislation that follows. If this session of the legislature will accomplish but one thing it can easily become famous and go down to posterity as the brightest legislative beacon that ever lighted the pathway of progress in Nebraska. That one thing is the conception and enactment of a comprehensive system of good roads in the state of Nebraska.

Elm Creek Beacon: We are heartily in favor of the idea of Governor Mickey's in regard to a western agricultural experiment station. If the attention of the station would be directed to the study of the problem would solve it, it would be an inestimable boon to the resources of the state. Of course the station need not be very far west, probably not farther than the one at Lincoln, to do this. The amount of land to be used and of course always the lowest and smoothest. If the alkali could be eliminated or counteracted the value would be raised from minus to plus.

Pierce Leader: The state legislature has been in session at Lincoln, but nothing beyond selection of officers and the introduction of a few bills has been done. Dr. J. M. Alden, senator from this district, has been selected chairman of the senate committee on insane hospitals, and it is understood that both he and Representative N. M. Nelson of Plainville will do all they can to have the hospital for insane rebuilt at Norfolk. It is also said that an effort will be made to secure an appropriation for a state normal school at Wayne, but the attitude of our senator and representative toward this scheme is not so well known.

Friend Telegraph: We took occasion to look upon the organization of the Nebraska senate and house of representatives. They are a fine looking body of men and we believe that the people whom they are there to represent may reasonably expect justice at their hands. The fact that there has been a score or more of superfluous offices that have been drawing money out of the treasury of the state without rendering adequate returns therefor, and in some instances nothing, which is already the subject of considerable complaint among members of the present legislature, and these fact jobs may totter and fall before the session is over. The institutions which are necessary should be properly supported, but those that have been created solely in the interest of place-hunters and which are not needed and which the state would be better off without, should be lopped off entirely. Nebraska is a great grain growing and stock raising state and her greatness is not in the least furthered or increased by sustaining a lot of positions for which the people have no use and from which they receive no benefit. There is yet plenty of room in the cornfields and on the ranges of Nebraska for men who are holding these offices and they should be invited to find employment there instead of at the public treasury, where they are rendering no return for their so-called services.

Edgar Post: If the writer were going to suggest anything to the coming legislature for its action it would be the need of a change in our assessment law. The way the matter now stands and the way the tax is collected is a disgrace to the state. The assessors of the state are grand aggregators of liars and tax-shirkers. It isn't so much that all men are trying to escape contributing their just share toward the support of the government that protects them, but everyone naturally dislikes to pay more than his share and there are always men in every community who will prevaricate to the assessor about their holdings, to put it mildly, and other men who have a disposition to be honest about the matter will give their conscience a terrible wrench in order to escape paying more in proportion than the man who has willfully tried to get out of paying what he really should. Thus the standard for truth and veracity, so far as taxes are concerned, is reduced to the level of the most untruthful man in the community. The practical and assessing proper for the state is to weigh its own weight of its value when the statutes require it to be assessed at its actual cash value is another bad thing about our revenue practices. The writer has no special remedy to propose—there are plenty of others who are ready to propose remedied—but the need for action is very apparent.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Joseph H. Lenton of Fort Worth, Tex., has invented an airship and will enter the \$100,000 contest at St. Louis.

Rear Admiral George B. Balch, U. S. N., retired, the oldest living flag officer in Uncle Sam's navy, has just celebrated his 82nd birthday at his home in Baltimore.

W. M. Devery has gone to law to compel Tammany to put him upon its executive committee. He also proposes to make Tammany confess what was done with the campaign fund.

John W. Hutchinson, the well known anti-slavery agitator and only surviving member of the famous quartet bearing his name, celebrated his 82nd birthday in Boston Monday.

Senator Hoar is well to do. His family has been in comfortable circumstances for generations. He has lived carefully, though well, and his possessions have increased moderately with time.

The fact that Bret Harte left only \$1,800 is looked upon as a discouragement to the literary profession. But in literature, as in everything else, it isn't what you make, but what you save.

Thomas Bralee, who has just died at Monterey, Cal., was one of those who assisted at the first hoisting of the Stars and Stripes over California. He first landed there in 1846, having come in Commodore Cloate's frigate, Savannah.

Owen McCarthy of Syracuse celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday. He says that he has used tobacco and alcoholic stimulants all his life. Any teetotaler will tell Mr. McCarthy that if he had done without these things he might have been 120 years old by now.

Ex-Governor Bob Taylor of Tennessee, known several years ago as "the adding governor," is credited with a desire to go to the United States Senate. He has invaded Nashville, where the legislature is in session, with a lecture on "The Fiddle and the Bow."

People who sneer at the predictions of the weather bureau should take a few hours and digest the chunk of meteorological wisdom which shines through the forecast, "Unsettled weather." In the lexicon of the bureau that's the part to steer for when in doubt.

The Society for Suppression of Colonels, organized some time ago in Virginia, with branches in all the more progressive southern communities, has its hand in the new Georgia law which forbids the governor of the state to take unto himself more than twenty-eight colonels. His staff up to this time has consisted of 128.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION.

SOUTH OMAHA JAN. 11.—To the Editor of The Bee: I was deeply interested in viewing the pictures of the Grant family and reading your entertaining article narrating your notable visit at the modest home of the great hero. Grant in Covington in today's Sunday Bee. General Grant was my ideal of a true, patriotic American citizen, the greatest and most successful military commander the world has yet produced, while his general makeup constituted more fine, desirable qualities than any other prominent person. History gives us record of him. He was the foremost soldier and statesman and perfect citizen combined of America. I almost idolize the memory of this gallant hero. Mrs. Anderson and myself have always revered the name of "Grant." In fact, the whole Grant family were models of good, old-fashioned Americanism. We hold the general's portrait dear to us for nearly forty years and shall preserve this day's Bee during our lifetime. You deserve great credit for your unbounded enterprising spirit.

D. ANDERSON.

SMILING REMARKS.

"She says she has a mission in life and will never marry." "Dear me! Is she so unattractive as all that?"—Chicago Post.

"Are you progressive people?" "Well, few progressive people they were no-bodies, and now they can snub whom they please."—Detroit Free Press.

"Three minutes for dinner!" cried the railroad porter. "Thank heaven!" exclaimed a passenger. "The last time I was here it was three dollars."—Atlanta Constitution.

Customer—But that umbrella looks