THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year.$4.00
Daily Bee and Sunday, One Year..... 6.00
Illustrated Bee, One Year..... 2.00
Sunday Bee, One Year..... 2.00
Saturday Bee, One Year..... 1.50
Twentieth Century Farmer, One Year.. 1.00

DELIVERED BY CARRIER.

Daily Bee (without Sunday), per copy... 2c
Daily Bee (without Sunday), per week..12c
Daily Bee (including Sunday), per week.17c
Sunday Bee, per copy..... 5c
Evening Bee (without Sunday), per week 6c
Evening Bee (including Sunday), per week.....10c

Complaints of irregularities in delivery should be addressed to City Circulation Department.

OFFICES.

Omaha—The Bee Building.
South Omaha—City Hall Building, Twenty-fifth and M Streets.
Council Bluffs—10 Pearl Street.
Chicago—1640 Unity Building.
New York—2328 Park Row Building.
Washington—501 Fourteenth Street.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed: Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

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

1	32,280	17	30,820
2	31,120	18	30,610
3	31,470	19	30,880
4	31,060	20	30,780
5	31,040	21	28,700
6	31,820	22	30,600
7	28,600	23	30,860
8	30,960	24	30,990
9	30,990	25	30,250
10	30,950	26	30,830
11	30,960	27	30,870
12	30,970	28	28,865
13	30,940	29	30,790
14	28,320	30	32,820
15	30,810	31	30,870
16	30,910		

Total 952,645
Less unsold and returned copies.... 10,181

Net total sales 942,464
Net average sales 30,402

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

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

To the legislative revenue committee: Get down to business.

By common consent the coal dealers still have the center of the stage.

The Colorado legislature should be given quarters in a Keeley cure institute.

The Nebraska farmers' trust proposes to wrestle with the Nebraska elevator trust.

If Colorado ever builds a new state house it should equip it with an arsenal on the premises for use of warlike legislators.

The omnibus statehood bill does not find the legislative track as smooth as did the omnibus building bill. Evidently the building bill was so heavy that it wore ruts in the road.

The only labor organization that is not preparing for a strike is the political wire pullers. They have altogether too much business in prospect to take a lay-off in these coal famine times.

After the experience of his farewell reception Minister Thompson should be better prepared when he comes to the seat of government in Brazil to withstand a siege than was Minister Conger at Pekin.

When D. E. Thompson looked at himself on the front page of the Lincoln Journal the morning after the reception he exclaimed with Marc Antony, "This was the most unkindest cut of all."

The fight between the advocates of the deep water harbor at Port Arthur and at Sabine Pass threatens to break out again. The oil boom having subsided Texas land speculators must work some other scheme.

While the legislature is in the repealing business why not repeal the "no treat" law. That law has been on the statute books just twenty-two years and the first man is yet to be arrested and fined for violating it either behind the bar or in front of it.

The prospectus of the consolidated street railway for 1903 is a little more modest than the New York news broker laid out for it. Its 200-mile suburban street railway system will for the present content itself with an extension from Omaha to Florence. The remaining links are on the map.

President Roosevelt's proposition to accept an invitation to go hunting in Wyoming conditioned on the eviction of all newspaper reporters from the hunting ground is hardly fair. It would be giving the newspaper men a hunt for news about the president to which they are not accustomed.

Many years ago coroners' inquests ended with the verdict, "Came to his death for want of breath." More recently these verdicts have ascribed mortality to heart failure. The latest verdict of coroners' juries is "Died from causes unknown." We live in an age of intelligent progress.

If the members of the state legislatures want to protect themselves against delegations from home they should pass a law prohibiting conventions of state organizations at Lincoln during legislative sessions, which enable those who wish to attend to travel to the state capital on half fare.

The president of the German Reichstag has resigned his position as presiding officer because of adverse sentiment roused by one of his rulings during a debate. Presiding officers of American legislative bodies are not so sensitive to public criticism. If they were to give way for every objection entered against official action and followed up outside, none of them would serve very long.

PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNED.

The signing of the Panama canal treaty may be accepted as settling the question of an isthmian canal and assuring the construction and control of the Panama waterway by the United States. The matter that had obstructed the negotiations and seemed for a time to threaten their failure, the question of the amount of annuity to be paid to Colombia by the United States, was settled by compromise. Investigation showed that the original proposition of our government was too low, while the demand made by the Colombian government was excessive. The amount of the annuity agreed upon is not yet made public, but it is said to be equitable and it is believed will be approved by congress when the facts upon which it is based are fully set forth. Colombia has accepted all the terms and conditions proposed by the United States in regard to the control of the canal and the strip of territory contiguous thereto required by the United States. The general features of the treaty as at first framed have been adhered to, the only important change relating to the pecuniary consideration, which is considerably more than was at first contemplated. The sum to be paid down to Colombia, when the treaty shall have been ratified, is $10,000,000 instead of $7,000,000 and the annuity is probably three times the amount at first proposed by our government.

The treaty must be ratified, of course, by the senate of the United States and also by the Colombian congress. The expectation is that there will be no unnecessary delay in its ratification by the senate, but the Colombian congress will not be in session until spring. There appears to be no doubt, however, of the ratification of the treaty by that congress. It seems safe, therefore, to regard the isthmian canal question as settled and that within the present year the work of completing the construction of the Panama canal will have begun. The Spooner bill giving authority to the president to negotiate for the purchase of the Panama route and make a treaty with Colombia, provides that when this shall have been accomplished "the president shall then cause to be excavated, constructed and completed, utilizing to that end as far as practicable the work heretofore done by the new Panama canal company of France and its predecessor company, a ship canal from the Caribbean sea to the Pacific ocean." President Roosevelt, it can be confidently assumed, will lose no time in inaugurating the work when everything is in readiness therefor and will have it pushed with all possible vigor. Estimates as to the time that will be occupied in completing this great enterprise vary somewhat widely, but probably at least ten years will be consumed in the construction and the cost will very likely reach $200,000,000.

CARING FOR RURAL DELIVERY.

There is favorable promise that congress will appropriate $12,000,000 for the support of the rural free delivery service during the next fiscal year. The appropriation for the current year was $7,500,000, which is just about twice as much as was allowed for the preceding year. The expansion of this service has been notable and there is abundant room for its continued growth. Five years ago there were forty-four rural free delivery routes; now there are 12,500 and by July 1 there will be 15,000. This is very remarkable progress.

It is understood to be the intention of the Postoffice department to establish 10,000 more routes with the money that will be available after July 1. At the present time the carriers travel daily over 275,000 miles of country roads to serve about 7,000,000 of the strictly rural population. The area covered by these routes is about 300,000 square miles. The establishment of the service has been fully justified by results. It is no longer an experiment, but has become a fixed and permanent part of the postal department which must be cared for and steadily expanded until there will be no accessible rural community without free mail delivery. It is a system the promotion of which is for the general welfare.

THE GERMAN BOMBARDMENT.

The bombardment of Fort San Carlos, Venezuela, by the German cruisers, is a very serious matter. So far as appears there is no justification for it and it looks like a piece of wanton aggression, wholly unwarranted and inexcusable. The right to maintain a blockade of Venezuelan ports, pending an adjustment of the preliminaries to arbitration, has not been questioned. It is the privilege of the powers having claims against Venezuela to make the blockade as effective as possible. But this does not include the right to seize and destroy Venezuelan ships of war and to shell Venezuela ports under whose guns those ships are at anchor.

The course of the Germans in this matter would be justifiable only in case of war and there has been no specific declaration of war against Venezuela. On the contrary the understanding is that the powers maintaining the blockade are not at war with the southern republic, but are simply exercising a recognized right for the collection of their claims. They have consented to an amicable settlement through arbitration and their diplomatic representatives are to meet the representative of Venezuela in Washington to effect arrangements for the arbitration. In such circumstances it would seem to be the clear and unmistakable duty of the powers to avoid any aggressive action toward Venezuela, except what may be essential to the maintenance of the blockade until arrangements for the arbitration shall have been completed.

While the American people feel a great interest in this matter, it is not apparent that our government is called upon to interpose. At any rate it is not likely to do so unless it should be appealed to by the Venezuelan government. What the German government should do is to instruct its naval officers in Venezuelan waters to confine their operations to the blockade and stop indulging in such warlike demonstrations as that at Fort San Carlos.

MAKE SPECIFIC APPROPRIATIONS.

The legislative committees that are formulating revenue revision should at the outset of their work plant themselves firmly in favor of specific appropriations for every state institution, whether benevolent or educational. Appropriations of indefinite sums by the imposition of a half mill or mill tax for any particular institutions are misleading and calculated to produce either a feast or a famine.

The originator of the mill tax scheme, the late Boss Stout, understood very well that it was easier to pull through an appropriation that did not specify the aggregate amount to be taken out of the treasury than an appropriation that would specifically name the amount to be levied against the taxpayers of the state. This was the reason why he preferred to lobby through the legislatures bills appropriating a half mill or mill tax for the construction of the state capitol building than by the imposition of a fixed sum, that was likely to be unpopular and embarrassing to members of the legislature who were persuaded to assist him in his jobs.

The university half mill tax and the later university mill tax were of the same order. It was much easier for the university lobby to logroll a mill tax appropriation through the legislature than would have been an appropriation bordering closely on $200,000. The university mill tax, or any tax based on that principle, should by all means be abolished.

A mill tax for 1902 was equivalent to $184,000. If the true value basis is adopted for all assessments a one-mill tax for 1903 would be equal to not less than $1,100,000, or an amount sufficient to pay all the running expenses of the state and interest on the state debt. A tax of such colossal dimensions for university education would create a popular uprising in every section of the state; nor would a half mill or quarter mill tax on true value basis be tolerated.

The correct principle for disbursing the public revenues is to appropriate for each institution a given amount of money and compel that institution to live within its income. The experience of other states where indefinite taxes have been imposed has been identical with that of Nebraska. Specific appropriations for state institutions are advocated by the governors of every state where indefinite taxes have formerly been levied upon the grand assessment roll of states under the misapprehension that the taxpayers will never find out how much they have been forced to contribute toward the maintenance of the institutions favored with indefinite tax appropriations.

The proposition to abolish precinct assessors in Douglas and Lancaster counties and impose their duties upon the county assessor with such deputies as he may find necessary is in line with the movement for tax reform enacted with the creation of the office of tax commissioner for cities of the metropolitan and first and second classes. In addition to insuring greater uniformity of assessment, the proposed law creating the office of county assessor would effect a large saving to the counties by requiring the county assessor to adopt the assessments made by the city tax commissioner for the appraisement of all property within the respective cities.

No trust bill will find favor in or out of congress that does not provide for ample publicity of trust finances. Enforced publicity resulting from the periodical statements to the comptroller of currency was the best thing that ever happened to national banks, and if the national banking law were repealed these institutions would still continue to make regular exhibits of their condition. When the trusts are forced into reasonable publicity they will wonder why they ever opposed the proposition.

The county board is getting ready to launch its reform program for 1903. The first reform in order will be the discontinuance of star chamber sessions. Public business should be transacted in public. That relates as much to committee meetings as it does to regular meetings of the board. Star chamber sessions have cost the taxpayers of Douglas county thousands upon thousands of dollars.

In proposing to do away with odd year elections in order to double the terms of county officers, the county commissioners' association has undertaken a larger job than it can carry through during the present year. It will take a constitutional amendment to do away with state and district judicial elections, and that means the postponement of the scheme to 1905 or 1907.

The exalted ruler of all the Elks is going south. The potential potentate of all the Buffaloes will probably go north, and the grand Mameluke of the imperious and imperial order Jiasticutuses is preparing to take a tour around the world to pay his respects to all the crowned and uncrowned rulers of the earth.

The Bear as a Tail-Twister.

Chicago News.

It is becoming one of the chief pleasures of the Russian ministry to drop a warship into the Dardanelles and watch the British ministry throw a fit.

Taking a Large Contract.

Baltimore American.

The Department of Agriculture is trying to find something that will make fat people lean. It will be a long time, however, before any sort of treatment except hypnotism will make people lean toward modern breakfast foods.

Where's that Fire Now?

Chicago Record-Herald.

A Yale professor claims to have discovered that all life originated at the north pole and that man came from the primates through fire. This of course happened long before the coal combinations got to doing business.

Lacked Culture in the Art.

Indianapolis Journal.

The woman who called a member of congress a liar from the galleries because he made a prediction about the future attitude of Canada toward the United States had not studied the ethics of lying. A mere difference of opinion regarding some suppositious event in the remote future does not furnish just cause for a charge of mendacity.

Small Risk in Traveling.

Minneapolis Journal.

According to the figures of the Interstate Commerce commission it is safer to travel than to stay at home. Last year the railroads carried 607,278,121 passengers. Including killed and injured the aggregate of casualties was 5,080. It appears that only one passenger out of 119,543 was in danger of injury, however slight; the risk of death was only as 1 to 3,702,903.

Time for National Sadness.

New York World.

The sultan of Jolo is dead; long live the sultan of Jolo! His Highness Hadji Jumalul Kiram is gathered at 30 with the faithful; but his honors were hereditary, and as his collection of sultanas knew no limit except his pay envelope there are plenty of heirs, one of whom may be selected, by the Oriental method of killing off his rivals, to wear the robes of state.

Uncovering Ancient Scandals.

Indianapolis Journal.

For those who have rated General Fremont among the bright lights of the republican party it is unfortunate that a recent debate in the house brought to light the scandals incident to his command in Missouri in 1861. He showed himself visionary and unequal to the task he had undertaken. He became a victim of rapacious army contractors, but his unpardonable sin was in consenting to be a bolting candidate for president against Lincoln.

Let the Money Flow.

Springfield Republican.

Corrupt practices legislation was quite the rage a few years back, but its practical achievements are not known to have been tremendous. Bills are pending in the Minnesota legislature repealing the corrupt practices act, and Judge Herrick of the New York supreme court for the district of Albany has just pronounced unconstitutional the law requiring candidates for public office to make public returns of their campaign expenditures. While this legislation has probably been of some restraining influence, still money seems to be as potent an influence in politics as ever, and as largely used.

Objections to the Lease Bill.

Minneapolis Journal.

That the problem of how to utilize the arid public lands is no easy one to settle is indicated by the protest of western Nebraska stockmen against the lease bill introduced in the senate by Senator Dietrich. The small grazers think this bill is favorable to the big ones. They want a lease law, they say, but not this one. Yet it must be entirely possible to work out some sort of scheme which, while not interfering with the privilege of the homesteader, will make it possible to utilize the public lands for grazing in a more advantageous manner than at present, both to the public and the cattlemen.

The Unreasonable Producer.

New York Evening Post.

In connection with the recent extraordinary advance in the price of petroleum, we hear of some mutterings from the producers because they are given so small a share of the enlarged profits. To the consumer oil has advanced in the last four months $1.47 a barrel. The producer maintains that he gets but 27 cents of this, and perversely argues that he ought to have more. But he should understand better the wise and benevolent ways of the Standard Oil company. The considerate gentlemen at the head of that charitable institution know well the temptation which sudden wealth brings in its train. They could not think of subjecting a mere producer to such a test. So they restrain their instinctive desire to give him six-sevenths of the increased price, and keep it themselves out of regard for his moral character. Besides, how could they be sure that he would endow Chicago university?

A SORRY MONUMENT.

American Writer's Zeal for Class and Royalty.

Detroit Free Press.

Few American newspaper correspondents are able to withstand a European environment. For every MacGahan, who is the soul of conscientious devotion to his work, there are a dozen Smalleys and Ralphs who are so dazzled by the glitter of rank and caste that they blindly singe their poor, weak wings in the flame. Mr. George W. Smalley went to London as the correspondent of the New York Tribune, and became so saturated with the spirit of British institutions that he soon earned the sobriquet of "the Tory squire," which still clings to him. As the Washington correspondent of a great New York daily, Julian Ralph, who died Tuesday, gained a national reputation for able, intelligent, fair-minded service. Then after a few years of "free lance" work he was sent to South Africa by one of the jingo newspapers of London and succeeded in casting discredit on the efforts of a lifetime.

No native-born Englishman who accompanied the British troops equaled this American correspondent in ecstatic devotion to the British cause and venomous denunciation of the Boers. Mr. Ralph set out from London to maintain the thesis that the Boers were semi-savages with none of the institutions of civilization, and he allowed nothing so inconsequential as fact to interfere with the elaboration of this theme. Days before he was in sight of the Transvaal or the Free State he was sending letters to the Mail describing minutely the barbarity of Boers he had never seen and acts of savagery that were never committed. The British army represented all that was chivalrous and brave and noble; the Boers represented all that was brutal and degraded and detestable.

Presumably, that was the kind of news from South Africa that the Mail desired, but the writing of it was sorry business for a reputable newspaper correspondent to be engaged in. And in the end, when the truth became commonly known and Englishmen generally had begun to testify to the valor and courage and honor of the Boers, Mr. Ralph had nothing to show for his worse than wasted opportunities except the wreck of reputation for accuracy and impartiality. This will remain as a warning, perhaps, to other brilliant fellows who are seduced into the belief that there is lasting profit in writing down to the passions and ignorance and superstitions of the mob.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

In 1902 England put into service, laid down or provided for a very respectable navy, as navies of most countries go. From the public dock yards two 15,000-ton battleships, one 9,800-ton armored cruiser and two 5,880-ton protected cruisers were launched. From private yards were launched four 9,800-ton armored cruisers, besides a number of submarines and torpedo boats. At present there are on the blocks five 16,350-ton battleships, one 9,800-ton armored cruiser, six 10,200-ton armored cruisers, two 12,500-ton armored cruisers, four 3,000-ton third-class cruisers, two 1,070-ton sloops, four 1,600-ton scouts seventeen torpedo boat destroyers, four torpedo boats and four submarines. Ships that are completing comprise six 14,000-ton battleships, thirteen armored cruisers, ranging from 9,800 tons to 14,100 tons, and two sloops. The ships that were completed and commissioned during the last year comprised one battleship of 12,000 tons, three of 15,000 tons, four armored cruisers of 12,000 tons and one of 14,000 tons, one sloop and two gunboats. The greatest success of the year was the armored cruiser King Alfred, which maintained a speed of 23,465 knots with 31,071 horsepower, its coal consumption at full power being 1.81 pounds per hour per i. h. p. This establishes that King Alfred could go from England to Australia at fifteen knots an hour without recoaling.

***

Among other signs of unquiet and discontent in the Russian empire is a curious exodus, for the purpose of evading military service, of Tartars from Crimea into Turkey. It was found necessary not long ago to put a large steamer on the line running from Sevastopol to Constantinople in order to accommodate the increasing number of emigrants. Moreover, the Tartars are using other opportunities for escape and the Russian authorities have found it necessary to lay special injunctions upon all local fishermen forbidding them to assist the fugitives in their flight. They say that they do not regret the departure of the Tartars, as it makes room for more desirable Russian peasants, but feel commiseration for the emigrants, who are going from bad to worse, and certainly the Tartars are grossly mistaken if they expect to find Turkey a land overflowing with milk and honey. The suggestion has been made by the Mahommedan priesthood that all Tartar recruits should be enlisted in one special regiment, and it is believed that this would remove many sources of discontent, but the authorities fear that if they made an exception of this sort in favor of the Mahommedans it would not be long before similar privileges would be demanded for the Jews. The Novoye Vremya says that a remedy must be sought in education.

***

Compulsory free elementary education having been established in France in 1882, the conscripts drafted into the army, and born within the last twenty-five years, have passed through the communal or other schools. Thus Frenchmen who cannot read and write are becoming rarities. Captains in various parts of France last year subjected the conscripts drafted into their companies to a sort of examination, which proved that nearly every man was fairly proficient in reading, writing and arithmetic. But beyond this the ignorance of the great majority of the men was astonishing. According to the Revue Pedagogique, a captain of the Fifth army corps, of which the headquarters are at Orleans, where the population is supposed to be rather above the average in intelligence, discovered that two of the forty-four conscripts drafted into his company were completely illiterate. The others could read and write fairly well, and the greater number could solve a problem of arithmetic correctly. Having ascertained these facts the captain assembled the conscripts, and giving them pen and paper asked, them to write as full answers as they could to three questions: "What do you know about Joan of Arc?" "Of what does the national fete of July 14 remind you?" "What do you know about the war of 1870?" It was found that more than half the conscripts knew nothing at all about Joan of Arc, that three-quarters were ignorant of the event commemorated by the national fete, and that two-thirds had no knowledge whatever of the Franco-German war of 1870. The publication of this fact has caused somewhat of a sensation.

***

Steadily and methodically Rusia is continuing its preparations for tightening its grip on Manchuria. The Russki Invalid of St. Petersburg publishes an order of the minister of war dwelling upon the importance of having a supply of officers acquainted with the local languages among the troops stationed in the Amur territory, and announcing that arrangements have been made at the Oriental Institute in Vladivostok for the instruction of forty officers in the Chinese, Japanese, Corean and Mongolian languages, as well as in French and English. The course of instruction will last four years and ten officers will be admitted every year in order to study the languages chosen for them by the general in command of the Amur military district. There will be no entrance examination. The officers selected for these courses will enjoy various priviliges, among others, annual allowances of 120 roubles for books, and 200 roubles for traveling expenses. For every month which they spend abroad during leaves of absence in order to perfect themselves in their languages they will receive an additional allowance for living expenses.

***

The insecurity of the Prussian authorities in the matter of the suppression of deulling is amusingly appparent in the answer of the minister of war to a memorial addressed to him by German students. The latter desired an arrangement by which duels between officers and students should be fought with the sabre rather than with the pistol. The minister of war says that he recognizes in the attitude of the students a general desire to avoid affairs with officers, a wish which, he says, is reciprocated in the army. The location of garrisons in university towns, he points out, was arranged with the object of giving students a convenient opportunity of serving their year with the colors. On the whole the relations between the officers of these garrisons and the members of the universities have been excellent. He cannot, he says, agree to take part in any formal regulation of duelling, because "the duel in itself is forbidden by law and is punishable." He then refers to the emperor's cabinet orders for the prevention of quarrels and the arrangement of differences in the army, and adds: "For the rest, it must be left to every one to maintain his own honor, since every one is the representative and guardian of his honor." He then goes on to suggest that courts of honor ought to be instituted for the students in each university, so as to co-operate with the military courts of honor for the settlement of quarrels. So long as the highest authority plays fast and loose with the law in this way, duelling will certainly continue.

A Change for the Better.

Buffalo Express.

The decision of the United States supreme court that six months' residence in South Dakota does not give a legal domicile has the effect of invalidating all South Dakota divorces obtained by nonresidents. It emphasizes again the need for uniform divorce laws among the various states.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

David Bennett Hill drew the legal brief that is credited with knocking out the state franchise tax law in the New York appellate court.

A Missouri legislator who answers to the name of Colin Selph sports a valet in sight of his colleagues. In the heyday of Missouri's greatness such conduct would provoke a lynching.

The Arkansas legislature has one member who is 6 feet 8 inches in height, but when the question is put to him he says he is 5 feet 20 inches tall. He is a school teacher —J. S. Rowland of Valley Springs.

Among the distinguished dead in the senatorial melee is the late James K. Jones of Arkansas. Mr. Jones was pressed into a round cotton bale by his opponents, but his fame as a political prophet will linger as long as American sovereigns appreciate campaign humor.

Former Governor James S. Hogg of Texas, who made millions in oil, now desires to succeed Joseph W. Bailey in the United States senate. Though the contest is four years off, Hogg is trimming his sails for it by getting on intimate terms with the members of the present legislature.

Judge John H. Reagan of Texas retired to private life the other day and will write some memoirs—which ought to be interesting, in view of his sixty-four years in public office as a member of the confederate cabinet, judge, United States senator, member of the Texas railroad commission, etc.

The only female member of the Utah legislature voted for Apostle Smoot's nomination in the republican caucus. The fact that she is a Gentile and the executive head of the Federation of Women's Clubs in that state may tend to ice water the claims of some of the folk who are expecting to overturn the situation out that way.

Prof. John W. Burgess of Columbia university declares in a magazine article that the United States senate at the present moment is the worst rotten-borough institution in the civilized world. He bases this assertion on the fact that of the 76,000,000 people in the union 14,000,000 are represented by forty-six senators and 62,000,000 by only forty-four senators. Prof. Burgess does not believe that popular government will long endure so great an inequality in its representative system.

Six members of the Kansas legislature are expert cowboys. They are all in the house—C. M. Beeson of Ford, W. H. Weldon of Clark, W. W. Martin of Morton, Fred Friar of Wichita, R. B. Campbell of Meade and Sherman William of Stanton. "Chalk" Beeson is dean of the outfit. He has always been a cowboy, though he owns a fine ranch in the southwestern part of the state and keeps it stocked with from 700 to 1,000 cattle. It was Beeson who in 1880 got together a real cowboy band, which later became famous all over the country.

STATUS OF THE ISLE OF PINES.

Americans There Anxious to Know Where They Are At.

Philadelphia Record.

Forcible resistance is threatened by 300 American citizens residing and owning property in the Isle of Pines to any further exercise of sovereignty there by the Cuban government. The malcontents make out a fairly good case against the Cuban authorities; the taxation is high, but the taxpayers receive nothing in return, all the money collected being appropriated to the use of Cuba, and the Isle of Pines remains without adequate police protection, without proper courts of justice and without schools.

The position of the island is certainly anomalous. In accordance with the Platt amendment it has been excluded from the constitutional limits of the Cuban republic. Hence, probably, the neglectfulness of the Havana government in providing a system of administration. Nevertheless, the island not having been ceded to the United States, the government at Washington can exercise no authority therein. The situation ought to be relieved. Still, the American residents ought to be the last persons to set so bad an example to their Cuban neighbors as to seek redress through lawless methods.

ELECTION EXPENSE LAW VOID.

New York Supreme Court Works Its Hammer Effectively.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The supreme court of New York has decided that the election law of that state, so far as it provides for the forfeiture of office by the failure to make and file a sworn statement of the election expenses of candidates, is unconstitutional and void. That instrument provides that no declaration shall be exacted from officials except the oath prescribed by the constitution.

The constitutional provision applying to the case in New York is not to be found in all state constitutions. The laws of other states requiring sworn statements of election expenses from candidates for office may be unassailable. The New York law was accepted as a very desirable reform. It was expected that its execution would purify elections, check bribery and all illegitimate expenditure. It has been helpful in these directions, though many candidates have probably been ingenious in devising ways and means of evasion. The forfeiture of office which followed exposure was a severe penalty.

The law was believed to be necessary, or it would not have been enacted. It was earnestly discussed before passage, and its enactment was regarded as a very important and efficacious reform measure. Similar laws have received public approval in England in the Parliamentary contests, and in certain American states. Too much money is spent in elections. It is a competitive prodigality sure to become more and more demoralizing unless some way be found to check it.

The direct or indirect purchase of votes cannot be stopped entirely by drastic legislation. Crime of all descriptions exists and persists, despite the criminal code. The portion of the New York election law now declared void was in line with other measures designed to secure pure elections, and it is regrettable that it is not constitutional. In order to revive the law it will be necessity to amend the constitution. In many of the modern constitutions the oath of office proscribed is intended to restrain officials from spending money corruptly in securing appointment or election.

HOW MEXICO DEALS WITH TRUSTS.

President Diaz Drops a Hint and a Conspiracy Collapses.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

If the gentlemen in Washington and elsewhere who are losing sleep in trying to solve the monopoly problem in this land of the free will cast their eyes southward they will see across the Mexican border something that they may find to their advantage. The strenuous gentleman who presides over the destinies of the Mexican republic is given to taking short cuts and is not in the habit of being hampered by red tape or legal formulas. Just at this time the story of how he tamed a Yankee octopus that had found its way into his bailiwick may be of interest.

Some months ago the Mexican Central railroad suddenly changed hands, and thereon hangs a tale. It appears that a Mexican, while trying to obtain water near Tampico, struck oil. He was ignorant of the value of his discovery, but a chance American recognized it and the two went into partnership in the oil business, doing eventually a large and profitable trade. Like most parts of the earth Mexico is in the grip of the oil monopoly and the big concern was soon aware of the operations of the humble pair who had ventured to do business for themselves. An offer to buy them out was made and refused. The corporation's agents hastened to San Francisco and soon the news came out that the Mexican Central had changed hands.

The trust's agents knew why the road had been sold even if the public did not, and the old familiar process of putting the screws to the Mexican and his Yankee partner was at once begun. The trick was played that has for years driven out of business every American oil producer who has dared to stand out against the trust. A tariff was adopted which practically prohibited the sale of Tampico oil fifty miles from that place, and the two humble partners were forced to suspend operations.

But they were not to be beaten so easily. They wasted no time in taking their grievance to court, but proceeded posthaste to the City of Mexico, laid their case before President Diaz, and showed him all the accumulated evidence. He promptly ordered that the former tariff of the railroad be restored under penalty of forfeiture of its charter to the state in case of refusal. The old rate on oil was at once and by wire ordered restored. The oil well is again in operation and the monopoly is booking no business in that section of the country. In the meantime the railroad, bought for the purpose of freezing out the two partners, is paying a reasonable dividend on the investment and the new owners are suffering no loss on that score.

All of which goes to show that there may be something in the claim so often set up that a benevolent despotism may be the best of governments. We are rather inclined to look down on Mexico; not always, it would appear, with good reason.

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

"Do you know what I can take for indigestion after dinner, doctor?"
"Yes; pie."—Yonkers Statesman.

"Speak louder," said the judge, "so the jury can hear you."
"Why," asked the witness, in astonishment, "are they interested in the case?"—Chicago News.

She—Doctor, is Speedunk a good place to go for rheumatism?
Doctor—Sure. That's where I got mine. —Detroit Free Press.

May—She still considers herself a girl, but she's getting to be an old maid, isn't she?
Fay—Yes, indeed; a few more summers will find her paying for her ice cream and soda water herself.—Philadelphia Press.

"Quite a stormy time at the theater this week," said the jocose manager.
"What happened?"
"The lightning calculator performed to thunders of applause."—Washington Star.

Mrs. Upjohn—What beautiful floors! How do you keep them so nicely polished?
Mrs. Gaswell (giving her the icy glare)—I don't. I leave that to the housemaid."—Chicago Tribune.

"Oh, shucks!" exclaimed the shredded Fodder. "I'm broke. Can't you lend me a little money?"
"No," replied the Hay that the farmer was preparing for the baler; "I'm all tied up myself, and expect at any moment to be pressed for money."—Baltimore American.

"Pardon me," said the polite man in the cheap restaurant, "but I don't like anything sweet in my coffee."
"It ain't been sweetened at all," replied the waitress as she set down the thick china cup before him.
"Ah! I may be wrong, but I thought I saw your thumb in it."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Cyrus was asked how he managed to remember the name of every soldier under him.
"It's easy," replied the great Persian. "When I lived in the suburbs I used to buy all my wife's threads and ribbons."
Marveling at the simplicity of genius, they withdrew.—New York Tribune.

GLORY IN THE GRANITE ROCK.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox in Success.

I.

A granite rock on the mountain side
Gazed on the world and was satisfied;
It watched the centuries come and go—
It welcomed the sunlight and loved the snow,
It grieved when the forest was forced to fall,
But smiled when the steeples rose, white and tall,
In the valley below it, and thrilled to hear
The voice of the great town roaring near.

II.

When the mountain stream from its idle play
Was caught by the mill wheel, and borne away
And trained to labor, the gray rock mused:
"Tree and verdure and stream are used
By man, the master, but I remain
Friend of the Mountain, and Star, and Plain;
Unchanged forever, by God's decree,
While passing centuries bow to me!"

III.

Then, all unwarned, with a mighty shock,
Down from the mountain was wrenched the rock.
Bruised and battered and broken in heart,
It was carried away to a common mart.
Wrecked and ruined in peace and pride.
"Oh, God is cruel!" the granite cried;
"Comrade of Mountain, of Star the friend—
By all deserted—how sad my end!"

IV.

A dreaming sculptor, in passing by
Gazed on the granite with thoughtful eye;
Then, stirred with a purpose, supreme and grand,
He bade his dream in the rock expand—
And lo! from the broken and shapeless mass,
That grieved and doubted, it came to pass
That a glorious statue, of infinite worth—
A statue of LINCOLN—adorned the earth.