THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

B. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of January, 1903, was as follows:

1	30,420	17	30,660
2	30,250	18	28,920
3	30,790	19	30,540
4	28,805	20	30,530
5	30,500	21	31,550
6	30,520	22	30,440
7	30,520	23	30,930
8	30,490	24	30,750
9	30,480	25	28,850
10	30,550	26	30,570
11	28,760	27	30,570
12	30,560	28	30,840
13	30,550	29	30,530
14	30,490	30	30,570
15	30,570	31	30,610
16	30,470		

Total	941,485
Less unsold and returned copies	9,875
Net total sales	931,607
Net average sales	30,051

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of January, A. D. 1903.
M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal.) Notary Public.

It was a hatchet club, not a knocker's club, that George Washington established.

If all the paper plans only materialize Omaha will experience a brisk building season as soon as the cold weather departs.

Perhaps the legislature does not want to look into that Bartley cigar box for fear it might find something it is hunting for.

It seems that the more patching the proposed revenue bill receives at the hands of the joint committee the worse it gets.

The Rockefeller experience justifies the admonition that telegrams should be in the same class with letters with the politicians.

This practice of promiscuous shooting hereabouts must not be allowed to become a habit. Some of the stray bullets may stray in the wrong direction.

The introduction by Senator Hanna of a bill to pension ex-slaves lends color to the suspicion that Walter Raleigh Vaughn must be lurking somewhere in the neighborhood of the national capital.

General Miles has been entertaining Chief Joseph of the Nez Perces Indians at his residence in Washington. General Miles gave him a livelier entertainment in the wilds of New Mexico and Arizona some twenty years ago.

On a basis of one representative for every 10,000 population Douglas county would be entitled to more than thirteen representatives and four state senators, as proposed in the McAllister apportionment bill. Still, small favors will be thankfully received.

It is said the experiment with the new postage stamps is not proving as successful as was expected, especially with reference to the design for the two-cent stamp. The Postoffice department should get a stamp that will stick and then stick to the stamp.

It seems that the corporation lobby is growing with the advance of the session, railroad cappers being called in from all parts of the state. If our lawmakers want to maintain themselves beyond suspicion they will send the paid lobbyists an invitation to go home.

If we would believe the hot air emitted by John N. Baldwin, as chief of the Union Pacific lobby, the railroads are so fearful that they will not pay enough taxes in the rural districts that they are willing to spend money to make sure the opportunity is not taken away from them.

Why should a member from Dodge county be concerned in the details of the South Omaha charter, anyway, that he should prepare amendments to be hitched onto it in committee designed to relieve the railroads from paying municipal taxes the same as other property owners?

Word from Washington is to the effect that there is no chance for any land leasing legislation during the remainder of the fast ebbing session of congress. People out here, however, will believe that the edict for the fences to come down is to be enforced when the fences are down.

Whatever may be done with the bill to extend the life of the supreme court commission nothing should be done that will prevent the enlargement of the supreme court by the addition of two more judges at the earliest possible time. One of the influences that helped defeat the constitutional amendment increasing the number of supreme judges in 1896 was traceable to the members of the old supreme court commission who wanted to hold on.

NO STEP BACKWARD.

The citizens of Omaha are rightly aroused over the attempt on the part of the franchised corporations to smuggle into the new revenue bill a provision that would undo all the reforms accomplished in the direction of the assessment of municipal franchises that previously escaped taxation. The proposal to make the assessment basis for the franchises of these public service corporations one year's gross receipts instead of the actual market value has nothing whatever to commend it. It is purely arbitrary and fictitious and directly contravenes the letter and spirit of the constitution, which requires all properties and franchises to be assessed equitably and uniformly.

There is no more reason why one year's gross receipts should be taken to represent the value of the franchise of one of the public service corporations than that six months' earnings should be taken, or that two year's earnings should be taken. The gross earnings of such a corporation has no definite relation to the value of its special privileges. Two corporations with the same amount of tangible property and the same gross receipts might, in fact, be worth on the market the one several times more than the other. This much it is safe to say, that if the proposed change did not mean that the franchised corporations would escape some of the taxes they are now compelled to pay they would not be advocating a change.

This is a matter that affects not only Omaha but every city in the state and it affects not only the people of the cities, but the taxpayers everywhere. All this property enters into the grand assessment roll of the state, and to allow any part of it to avoid assessment on the same basis as the other property simply shifts the burden of taxation to other property owners. If the joint revenue committee has acted ignorantly in this matter it should reconsider and retrace its steps. If the committee persists in reporting the bill with the provision for the substitution of gross receipts for market values as the basis of franchise assessment, it will devolve upon the legislature to strike out the obnoxious clause when it comes up before the two houses.

THE CLUB THAT DOES.

"The greatest thing in Kansas City, chief maker of Kansas City, its prophet, apostle and crowner, is the club that does. The Commercial club is the title of it." So writes H. Alloway, the well known financial editor of the New York Times, who has been making a tour of the southwest to find that the Kansas City Commercial club has been the chief factor of the marvelous growth and prosperity of that city. That this was a revelation to the man of the east goes without saying, for he waxes even more enthusiastic as he continues:

It is not merely in the bringing of new manufactories to employ labor, utilize raw material and distribute pay rolls; it is not merely in the development of plans for expanding mercantile connections that this organization is industrious. Along those lines it does wonders, but its field is broader. Not less conspicuous in its character is the campaign waged constantly for municipal cleanliness. Through it has started plans for a public park system great in acreage and greater still in its developing beautification—close to $3,000,000 has already been invested in it, with $3,000,000 more to be speedily available. Fair record this for a western river town whose assets and credits were texts for jocularity a decade and less ago.

The writer goes on to tell how under Kansas City's leadership every town and hamlet of consequence in the southwest has hastened—and that enthusiastically—to establish home championship organizations of the same type. "In twenty alert towns of western and northern Missouri, of Kansas and Oklahoma and Texas, and even in the quondam quietude of Arkansas—in towns that I have been personally visiting—this Commercial club idea is not merely accepted but has come to be controlling. Thus Kansas City has actually stencilled the whole southwest over."

It is not with the special intention of paying tribute to Kansas City as the home of live and hustling business men that The Bee calls attention to this delightful description. It is to remind the business men of Omaha of the opportunities their Commercial club can have if its members will only cut loose from the strings that have held them to inaction in too many matters of vital concern to the well being and progress of Omaha. If our Commercial club will only set about it it can furnish a text for eastern newspapers as well as Kansas City.

A NEGLECTED COMMERCE.

The official statement of the foreign commerce of the United States for 1902 shows that no progress is being made in securing South American trade. Indeed, it appears that while our imports from the southern countries have been steadily growing our exports to them last year were not as much in value as twelve years ago. Here is a great market, from which we buy heavily, the imports from South America amounting last year to about $120,000,000, yet our manufacturers and merchants were able to sell there only $38,000,000 worth of merchandise, or less than one-third of what we bought.

It is very apparent that this market, which is steadily growing in importance, is not being cultivated as it should be by American manufacturers and merchants, that they are doing little or nothing to compete with the British and Germans in South America, or else that they are at such a disadvantage that their efforts are futile. There is one important respect in which undoubtedly they are at a disadvantage, which is the want of lines of American vessels sailing frequently and regularly to all the principal South American ports. Mr. McKinley pointed this out, saying that "one of the needs of the times is direct commercial lines from our vast fields of production to the fields of consumption that we have but barely touched." He declared that next in advantage to having the thing to sell is to have the convenience to carry it to the buyer and therefore we must encourage our merchant marine and have more ships under the American flag, built and manned and owned by Americans. It is not to be doubted, if the testimony of South Americans themselves is of any value, that much would be gained in the way of trade if we had steamship lines sailing frequently and regularly to the more important South American ports, but that is not a promise of the near future. Undoubtedly there are other and quite as serious disadvantages that may be remedied in time.

When we are seeking markets for our surplus manufactures the fact that we are making no progress in the large and valuable markets south of us seems very remarkable. British and German trade with those countries steadily grows and it appears like a reflection upon American energy and enterprise that there is no increase in our South American commerce.

FREEDOM OF DEBATE

There was an interesting and somewhat instructive discussion in the United States senate a few days ago on the old question of unrestricted debate in that body. It was brought about by a proposition that the senate agree upon a time for closing debate on the statehood bill. While the discussion was not general, there was enough to make plain the fact that a large majority of the senators are opposed to placing any restriction on debate. Men of both parties favor the largest latitude of discussion. Senaor Spooner and Senator Lodge advocated it on the part of the republicans and the views they expressed were concurred in by such democratic senators as Cockrell and Bacon.

Senator Lodge said that when he went to the senate from the house of representatives he was strongly prejudiced in favor of vigorous and prompt methods of closing debate. He had since reached the conclusion that the practice of the senate is on the whole a wise one and the safest system for the country and for the general interests of the government. Senator Bacon said there are three distinguishing features of the senate which justify terming it the greatest deliberative body in the world and the chief of these is the right to unlimited debate. The arguments of these senators, however, were not entirely convincing, for they were compelled to admit that under the prevailing practice the will of the majority may be defeated and this is certainly not consistent with our republican system. There is no doubt that the statehood bill, if brought to a vote, would pass, but the minority has kept up the discussion of that measure with the avowed purpose of talking it to death. In the case of the Panama canal treaty the right of unlimited debate is delaying ratification and this delay is due almost wholly to a single senator, there being no question that more than the necessary two-thirds of the senate would vote for ratification. In this the popular will as well as that of a majority of the senate is being baffled, yet as long as Senator Morgan is able to talk he can obstruct action on the treaty. It is pretty difficult to find any sound defense or justification for such a system in a republic.

But it will be adhered to until, as was said by Senator Mason, "the people of the United States so shape their constitution that the senators will owe their seats to, and answer directly to, the people, who ought to elect the senators." The time will assuredly come when the people will insist, in a way that cannot be disregarded, that there shall be some limit placed upon debate in the senate, so that a few senators shall not be able as now to obstruct and even defeat legislation favored by the majority. The fact that the existing practice has prevailed for nearly a century is no justification of it and does not relieve it of the charge of being essentially unrepublican.

In a Chicago court a verdict for damages has just been recovered against a surgeon, who undertook to perform an operation on a patient without first securing the assent of the patient or lawful representative, and the outcome of the suit has stirred up a vigorous discussion of the lengths to which medical men may go in a professional capacity in the use of the surgeon's knife. All the experts agree that the patient's consent should by all means be a condition precedent, except possibly where his condition requires immediate action, justifying the surgeon in using his own judgment and accepting responsibility for his decision. At the same time there is no question but that over-eagerness to use the knife is altogether too prevalent in the profession and that the decision in question should have a whole some effect in putting the brake on rash experiments.

The defeat of the county commissioner bill means that the county court house in Douglas county will remain in the hands of the democrats until the republicans choose men as candidates for commissioner who can command the support of a majority of the people in their own districts. There are plenty of republicans in every one of the five districts, with possibly one exception, who can carry their respective districts. Douglas county republicans may as well make up their minds now if they hope to regain control of the county offices to put up the bars against weaklings for these important positions.

One by one the legislatures of the various states are adopting resolutions calling for a constitutional convention to propose an amendment to the federal constitution for the election of United States senators by the direct vote of the people. When the list is made up it will be found that the states joining this movement will be perilously near the number required by the constitution. Congress might as well get ready to act.

Give the legislature credit for manifesting a disposition to insist on fireproof construction in all new buildings for state institutions. Nebraska has lost enough by firetraps, to say nothing of what is still more serious, the exposure of the lives of helpless and dependent wards of the state. Whenever the state builds let it build in a substantial manner.

General James B. Weaver is already casting about with a view to landing the democratic nomination for governor of Iowa next fall. General Weaver has been a standing candidate for about everything on the political calendar. If the Iowa democrats find themselves compelled to fall back on this perennial office hunter they must be in hard lines indeed.

Rounding Up "Easy Marks."

Washington Post.

The E. J. Arnold Investment company has 155 agents on the road soliciting suckers. It evidently went on the theory that a sucker is worth going after.

Whittled to a Point.

Indianapolis News.

In brief, Judge Grosscup holds that men that buy beef in one state and sell it in another are engaged in interstate commerce, even if they themselves say that they are not.

Worth Rightly Rewarded.

St. Louis Republic.

Mr. Cortelyou's confirmation as secretary of commerce is a cause of general satisfaction to the nation, which formed a strong friendship for him during several years of capable service.

Downward Pitch of the Pole.

St. Louis Republic.

At the lowest estimate it will cost $200,000 to reach the north pole, according to Lieutenant Peary, who ought to know, if anybody knows, but Medicine Hat may be reached by tourist car and side accommodations for a fraction of that sum.

A Pointed Illustration.

Kansas City Journal.

By way of emphasizing his statements in regard to the dwindling of families, President Eliot might point out that the democratic family has shrunk frightfully in recent years and that the populist family has become wholly extinct.

Perils of Speculation.

Kansas City Journal.

Our present prosperity is builded on a firm foundation. But that foundation can not permanently stand against rash speculation. Whether the present conditions shall continue depends much more largely on the people than on the government. If they persist in going into "get-rich-quick" schemes instead of investing their savings conservatively they are certain to lose their savings; and if the tendency to overapeculation continues to grow, it is only a matter of time until we shall run upon breakers.

INCORRIGIBLE INVESTORS.

Will Publicity Reduce the Number of Dupes of Fake Concerns?

Chicago Tribune.

Judge Grosscup said some time ago that we ought to "peopleize" the great industrial corporations of this country. By which he meant this: Keep a governmental eye on them; give all their operations the widest possible publicity; then all will know exactly what is doing; will have confidence in their securities and invest their savings in them, instead of putting their savings in banks.

The two pillars of this idea, it will be seen, are publicity and confidence. But is not a searching light thrown on the publicity and confidence idea by the recent history of "get-rich-quick" concerns in Chicago? People are so anxious to invest that no amount of lack of information deters them. They seem to regard business as a kind of "great magic," an alchemist's crucible, an Aladdin's lamp, a department of the occult. They want to put money in a slot and by some bewildering and awesome process see dividends handed out to them on a tray. Hence the curious fact that to so many of them the difference between the firm that offers 4 per cent a year and the firm that offers 4 per cent a month seems to be in favor of the latter.

Nor does a burned public dread the fire. Three years ago Chicago was the scene of revelations similar to those which are now taking place. The newspapers said then: "The game is exposed; the public is hereafter safe; in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird." But here came in the difference between bird and human intelligence. The net was again spread and investors walked into it with as much equanimity as on all former similar occasions. Which drives the observer to the depressing conclusion that the fact that people do not invest in industrial securities is not due to any lack of information or lack of confidence with regard to them, but because no industrial corporation promises to pay such dividends as the "get-rich-quick" concerns, which pretend to operate on stock boards or race tracks say they will pay. There are men and women whose money can always be had by the sharper who will offer 4 per cent a month.

LIFT THAT CIGAR BOX LID.

David City Record: It might be of interest to have our legislature investigate our late pop ex-Treasurer Meserve to find out how much accrued interest he pocketed from the school fund deposited in his banks during his official career. Our fusion friends have always been a little sore on this charge, but the irritation may cease when the festering sore is once fully exposed so the attorney general may recover some of this unearned increment if the legal rules permit.

Pawnee Chief: It has been suggested that the present legislature demand the contents of that much talked of "cigar box" be made public, and the Chief hopes there are enough members of both branches who are not tainted with Bartleyism to pass a resolution looking to this end. Oh, but wouldn't there be some surprises if the beneficiaries of Bartley's peculations were singled out and named? But honest men universally are in hopes our legislators will call for a "show down."

Stanton Picket: The demand for action by the legislature to investigate the Bartley steals, the alleged crookedness of Meserve and Mr. Stuefer's bond transactions should be complied with. If there is any way of finding out what Bartley has done with the money embezzled from the state it should be done. If other state treasurers have gone crooked let it be known. Take the lid off that cigar box and show the public what is inside. Let there be an investigation and such a one as will investigate and not whitewash. The legislators have it within their power to do good service for their constituents in this matter and it should be done, and let the hit birds flutter.

WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR.

Former Mayor of Minneapolis Finds It Quite Rocky.

The fugitive ex-mayor of Minneapolis, A. A. Ames, has been run to corner in the obscure village of Hancock, N. H., where relatives reside. Although he is reported to be a mental and physical wreck, he battled through lawyers to prevent forcible return to the scene of his degradation. He does not love the people of Minneapolis as he did in years past when they showered honors upon him regardless of party ties, and it is reasonably certain the people cordially reciprocate the sentiment. Several criminal indictments which he dodged last summer await his return, and there appears to be a strong disposition to press them to a conclusion in the courts so as to place the seal of justice on the author, promoter and beneficiary of the city's shame.

In his better days the former was a practicing physician as was his father before him. He made a good record in the civil war. He had been a candidate for governor of his state, receiving a comparatively large vote, for Dr. Ames was then a democrat in a state where democracy is usually in a hopeless minority. Twice he was elected mayor of Minneapolis as a democrat, and while he had what was known as "wide-open" administrations, he was never accused of personal crookedness.

To his friends and associates, Dr. Ames was known as generous to a fault. He did more charity professional work than any other physician in the city. But Dr. Ames' personal habits were bad. He chose associates of the slums. Dr. Ames' personal recklessness led to family difficulties and the breaking up of his home. It was his stolid indifference and shameful levity at the funeral of his divorced wife which first caused a revulsion of popular feeling toward him. But still he had a following and was again elected mayor of Minneapolis as a republican, following the democratic administration of Mayor Gray. From the moment he came to office the last time he seemed to be bent merely on loot. Crooks were placed on the police force. Colonel Fred Ames, Mayor Ames' brother, who had come back from the Philippines, where he had served without honor as an officer of a volunteer regiment, was made chief of police. He was weak and pliable. That was the reason for his being placed in such a post. The word went out that "something was doing" in Minneapolis. Crooks flocked there from all over the country. There was to be a carnival of "graft." Crooked gambling "joints" started up all over town. Mayor Ames appointed a detective and assigned him to the mayor's office. The duty of this detective was to collect corruption money from gamblers and female keepers of immoral resorts. Vile "joints" were opened all over town under the guise of candy stores. Everything paid revenue to the police department and the mayor. City detectives were detailed to frighten out of town men who had been swindled by confidence men. The crooks were paying for protection, and the police department must see that they got it.

There was too much "graft." The police divided into factions and fought over it. One faction harassed and arrested the crooks protected by the other faction, and the crooks resented it. It was at this stage of municipal rottenness that an aggressive young business man was named as foreman of the grand jury. The split in the police department and a fight started upon the sheriff by the Ames gang, so that no officer of the law would be left to look after law breakers, gave the grand jury foreman an opening. He and some other members of jury made up a fund among themselves and put private detectives—two sets of them—at work collecting evidence against the city administration. One set acted as decoys. The other set did business. Some of the disgruntled gamblers squealed. One after another Ames' friends and tools were indicted. Ames was defiant. He thought himself too strong for prosecution. No officer of the law would dare measure strength with him. Detective after detective was enmeshed. Gardner, Ames' collector of corruption money, was indicted. Then came Ames' brother, the chief of police. Finally Ames himself. Colonel Fred Ames got six years in the penitentiary. Gardner got a penitentiary sentence, but will get a new trial. "Coffee John" Fichette, once captain of police and a collector of "graft," was caught in the net. Death saved him from punishment. So went the list.

Six indictments were returned against Dr. Ames. One charged Dr. Ames with collecting through "Coffee John" Fichette $1,000 for permitting a vile theater to do business in violation of the law. One charged attempted bribery of County Commissioner Sweet in order to secure his vote for an Ames tool as sheriff, after Sheriff "Phil" T. Megarden had been deposed from office. Two indictments charge him with receiving bribes from women in consideration of permitting them to conduct resorts. Still another charges receiving bribes through Gardner.

Dr. Ames was arraigned on three indictments before District Judge Harrison of Hennepin county. He pleaded "not guilty," but said he was too ill to stand trial. This was July 14 last. The cases went over the term. Dr. Ames gave $10,000 bail, and went to West Baden, Ind., to regain his health. It was announced at the time that he might not return, as he was to become house physician of a sanatorium there. But Indiana did not care to add to its list of physicians a man who was under indictment as a felon in another state. Dr. Ames was not licensed. He had to give up the prospective place. He resigned as mayor of Minneapolis on August 7 last. He failed to appear when the cases against him were called in the September term of court, and was technically as well as actually a fugitive from justice. Since that time he has been in hiding, pursued with more or less ardor by Minneapolis officers of the law. Judge Harrison put an end to this proceeding by instructing State's Attorney Boardman to see that Dr. Ames was brought back for trial. The doctor's bond of $10,000 has been forfeited. Officers of the law have him. If he should live to stand trial, he is likely to be shown little mercy by the persons who once delighted to honor him.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Secretary Cortelyou is a fine musical critic, something that has long been needed in the cabinet.

It is proposed in Brooklyn by prominent citizens to give Minister Bowen, who was formerly a resident of that city, a banquet before he returns to Venezuela.

It is significant that within three days after it was announced that the president was going to practice swordsmanship the allies agreed to sign the protocols.

On the site of the old home of the once famous Captain Kidd in New York a skyscraper fifteen stories high will soon be erected by the Century Realty company and William F. Havemeyer.

While Colonel Arthur Lynch, the member of the British Parliament recently convicted of treason, has been in prison he has received all Parliamentary documents with great regularity, the same as the other members. Though serving a life sentence he still has a standing as Galway's representative in the lawmaking body at Westminster.

MUNICIPAL TAXATION OF RAILROADS

Fremont Tribune: It is clear if the Omaha plan should be followed the taxation of the roads would be greatly increased, for then the terminals would be assessed once for municipal purposes, whereas under the unit system that part of the terminal value apportioned to mileage between stations now escapes municipal taxation. The roads now escape this.

Fairbury Gazette: The railway managers are making a mistake in opposing H. R. 171. Two wrongs don't make one right. It is no excuse to say that railways should not be assessed at a fair cash value because horses are assessed at $10 and mules at $5 per head. All such assessments are ridiculous. All property must come up to a common level for assessment purposes. If the railway people persist in their opposition to just and fair assessments, they will force the issue into a campaign, and then there will be something doing of a very radical nature. This assessment question will not down, nor will it be settled until it is settled right. The members of the legislature who are not with the people on this question, and their actions at Lincoln this winter are being closely inspected at home, will find their future political aspirations will vanish in the air. They must be fair to the railways and fair to the people. Nobody can object to that proposition.

Rushville Recorder: The Recorder has been inundated with leaflets, pamphlets, and foolets on the taxation of railroads this two weeks, and we have come to the conclusion that the attempt of the railroads to buy editorials in the press has acted like the lesse law on the stockmen. When people begin to stir up a heap, they must look out for odors. It certainly looks as though the city of Omaha was making out by far the stronger case in its fight for equal taxation on city property. While the railroads have conferred immense benefits on Omaha, they have to some extent offset those when we see the valuation of railroad property there conducted in such a ridiculous manner. Nebraska has a very high position among the states on account of its literacy, but we shall not have much faith in that kind of boast until it is exercised enough to place the railroad taxation on somewhere near the same basis it occupies in older states. In Indiana the state, under its revised taxation scheme in one year raised the assessed valuation on railroads from $60,000,000 to $160,000,000 and the railroads and state are still doing business. There is not the least doubt on earth that the railroads here in common with a large number of citizens are assessed too low and Omaha is not the only place where the evil can be found. We are only afraid that the matter of our new revenue laws generally are being rushed through too quickly, and that more time should be given to revising our whole fiscal system.

Long Pine Journal: The Journal should think that the railroads having terminal property in Omaha would be ashamed to send out the fool literature they are inflicting on the country newspapers in regard to the local taxation of their terminals. In Omaha the assessing for city taxes is entirely separate and apart from the county assessing. All property is assessed at its cash value, except that in the case of the railroad property a clause in the law, inserted there for the benefit of the railroads, compels the tax commissioner (as the city assessor is called) to take the assessment made by the state board, which is a ridiculously small fraction of the real value of the property. The Omaha people want this clause repealed, so that they may assess the railroad stations, etc., at full cash value, for city purposes. Of course this means a big increase in taxation for the railroads, which are paying only a few thousands of the million dollars that must be raised in Omaha each year. Their cry now is that this increased taxation in Omaha would mean just so many dollars taken out of the pockets of the outside counties, as railroads are assessed as a whole. If Omaha hogs the tax, they say, what is left for the rest of the state? It will be seen that the railroads are deliberately confusing the state and city assessments, which bear no relation to each other. It is true that the state board assesses the railroads as a whole and then apportions the assessment, so to speak, among the counties, villages, etc., according to the number of miles of railroad within them, but this is for county, school and other taxation. The rest of the state will not lose a cent if Omaha taxes them $1,000,000 a year, and any man of sense ought to know it.

Nebraska Independent: It is obvious that state government covers every foot of railroad within the state, and so far as concerns state taxes it matters little from what particular county or counties they come, so long as railroad property on the average pays as much state tax per $100 of "fair cash value" as other property over the state pays on the average. Outlying counties along the line of railroads having terminals in Omaha contribute to the creation of value in those terminals, and the system of dividing the total value of any given road by the number of miles of "line" in that road—thus arriving at a per mile valuation—could have no other object than to give outlying counties, for local taxation, a greater share of railroad valuation than the value of railroad property within those counties would warrant if assessed without reference to any other part of the road. It is also obvious that county government also extends over every foot of railroad in the state, and whatever of the value of Omaha terminals is not taxed for county purposes in Douglas county is taxed for county purposes in other counties along the line. Whether the entire assessed valuation in the several counties is high enough as compared to other property in those counties, is wholly another question and need not be discussed here. It is equally obvious that school districts cover every foot of railroad in the state and as far as concerns the assessed valuation of railroad property the "distribution" for school district purposes is just as complete as it is for county purposes. But city government does not cover probably to exceed a tenth part of the miles of railroad "line" in the state, and the "distribution" theory is obviously wrong—even if we concede it right for other purposes—because at least nine-tenths of the great terminal values in the larger cities wholly escapes paying city taxes anywhere.

Hartington Herald: The city of Lincoln and Lancaster county seem to be absolutely under the control, politically, of the railroad crowd. The latest evidence of that fact is the open alignment of almost the entire Lancaster delegation in the legislature with the railroad lobby and its demands. The only one of the delegation having the manhood to stand for the interests of the large majority of his constituents is Senator O'Neill of Lincoln. It is at least refreshing to know that there is one oasis in the Lancaster Sahara. Omaha fondly imagines that the Douglas county delegation is free from railroad domination. Some time ago, however, we noticed, that when an earnest member, disgusted with the brazen effrontery of the railroad lobby, offered a resolution which made the lobby quake in its boots, denying the lobby the freedom of the state house during the session of the legislature, it was a member of the Douglas delegation, who with that most effective of all weapons—ridicule, compelled the house to almost unanimously table the resolution. The discouraging feature of the whole business is the evident fact that the members of the house were either too dense to see that they were being worked by a tool of the lobby or else were afraid or unwilling to banish the lobby. The Herald hoped for great things at the hands of the present legislature. We say "hoped" advisedly. At the outset we predicted a business session. Thus far it has been anything but a business session. The time of the greater portion of the session has been fooled away with very little important work accomplished. Soon the inevitable rush of bills will come, with little or no time for careful examination. Then the lobby will have its inning and then the thousands of small tax payers in the state will, no doubt, have good reason to quake in their boots.

SMILING REMARKS.

Cook—Well, the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Mr. Bouncer—No, it isn't. It's in the digesting.—Detroit Free Press.

Hewitt—You're a liar.
Jewett—You're a liar.
Both—We seem to be in pretty bad company.—New York Sun.

Consumer—Well, with such a winter as this I presume ice will be cheaper next summer.

Dealer—Cheaper? My dear sir, think of the sufferings of the poor fellows that have to cut ice such weather as this!—Chicago Tribune.

"Are you doing anything to make the world better?"

"Certainly," answered Senator Sorghum. "I expect pretty soon to have affairs in such shape that the world will give me no reasonable grounds for complaint whatever."—Washington Star.

"Did it hurt?" asked the dentist.

The patient looked at him reproachfully.

"Now, doctor," he said, "do I look like a man who would yell just for amusement or to pass away the time?"—Chicago Post.

Tess—He tried to kiss me, and he declared the more I struggled and screamed the more he'd kiss me. He's no gentleman.

Jess—But, my dear, gentlemen sometimes do that sort of thing.

Tess—But when I screamed he ran away. A gentleman would keep his word.—Philadelphia Press.

Myer—In olden time it is said that it was possible for a man to render himself invisible.

Gyer—Pshaw. That's not at all remarkable. Men in this country are doing it every day.

Myer—You don't tell me! How do they manage it?

Gyer—By marrying famous women.—Chicago News.

Staylate—Do you believe in long courtships, Miss Annie?

Miss Annie—Well, I'm in favor of a six-hour limit on each session.—Chicago News.

"Well," said the wife, whose thoughts were on her Easter bonnet, "I'll forgive and forget your being out late last night. I suppose I'll always have to be forgiving something——"

"Yes, whenever you're for getting something," replied the brute, her husband.—Indianapolis News.

The pompous new resident had been having a set-to with the smart boy of the neighborhood. This was the youngster's parting shot:

"Aw, you don't need t' think you're no whole legislacher jist becoz ev'rybody's al'ays presentin' bills to you!"—Baltimore American.

A PRICELESS PARADISE.

Edmund V. Cooke in Saturday Evening Post.

If some weird gnome should seek my home,
Some genie, fairy, which,
To blink my eyes with every prize
Of life, and ask me "Which?"
I think I'd choose in half a trice,
This boon: to never ask the price.

I would not claim a gilded name,
Or be a financier,
Nor would I hold the wide world's gold;
And yet I somewhat fear
I'd ask a just sufficient slice
That I might never ask the price.

A coat-of-arms has meagre charms
To men of modern views,
Yet were it mine to make design,
I know which one I'd choose:
An open purse, with this device,
"He never, never asks the price."

Is heaven a state, a place, a fete,
A rapture, or a rest?
The question's old and each may hold
His own opinion best;
But my idea of paradise
Is where one need not ask the price!

The doctor orders the medicine, the medicine aids nature, and nature makes the cure. Ask your own doctor about it. He has our formula. He knows why Ayer's Sarsaparilla makes the blood pure and rich, why it tones up weak nerves, and why it overcomes all debility.

Ayer's Pills aid the Sarsaparilla. They keep the liver active, cure constipation, biliousness, sick-headache, nausea. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.