THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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1	29,160	15	29,225
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3	30,630	17	31,540
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5	30,490	19	31,450
6	30,570	20	31,610
7	30,550	21	31,670
8	29,200	22	29,295
9	30,610	23	31,930
10	30,500	24	31,850
11	30,652	25	31,660
12	30,640	26	31,520
13	30,640	27	31,690
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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 28th day of February, A. D. 1903.
M. B. HUNGATE,
(Seal.) Notary Public.

Prosperity brings the rising tide. Even the waters in the rivers and streams are going up.

With Governor Cummins returned home from his southern tour, the Iowa idea should be ready for spring sprouting.

We fear Judge Slabaugh's vision of Greater Omaha in A. D. 2000 must remain an iridescent dream for just a little while longer.

The latest discoveries of oil are heralded from Mexico. Unfortunately it is not stated whether they spout in Mexican or in Spanish.

There must be no halt in the campaign for the equal taxation of railroads with other property. There is no stopping place until the battle is won.

When it comes to a debate on the relative advantages offered to settlers by Nebraska and by northwest Canadian provinces we bet on Nebraska every time.

Omaha trades unions must indeed be in a flourishing condition if they are outgrowing and overflowing labor temple quarters that for years sufficed to meet all their demands.

Colonel Bryan's visit with Tom Johnson might make David B. Hill suspicious that all the presidential bees in the democratic camp cannot be cornered down in the New York state.

Paradoxically one of the first difficulties besetting Secretary Cortelyou as head of the department of commerce will be to keep the places subject to his distribution from becoming objects of political barter and trade.

"Beautify Omaha" is a good motto to stick to. To make Omaha more beautiful, however, requires steady and systematic work on the part of every property owner to improve his own premises as well as on the part of the city as a whole.

The answer of the Wabash trainmen to the injunction petition of the railroad's attorneys puts an altogether different light on the case. Whether a judge accustomed to look through railroad spectacles can see anything different, however, remains to be seen.

That reunion in New York of 250 descendants of a single progenitor hailing originally from Baden is probably designed to reinforce by an object lesson some of the pertinent remarks of President Roosevelt on the degeneracy of American fatherhood and motherhood.

Now that the last straggling senators have been sworn in before the bar of the American House of Lords, roll call might as well be ordered on the treaties awaiting ratification without indulging in any more forensics. The new senators know where to go to get their directions.

No matter how the revenue laws may be revised, Omaha and Douglas county will have to pay the big end of the state's expenses compared to the money spent out of the treasury on state institutions located here, while for Lincoln and Lancaster county just the reverse will remain true.

In passing it is worthy of note that the exit of Senator Wellington from the halls of congress did not create even a ripple on the surface of the political sea. Wellington showed plainly on what level he belonged when he made such a pitiable exhibition of himself at the time of the assassination of President McKinley.

WHY SHOULD THEY FALTER?

The lower house of the Wisconsin legislature has passed the bill changing the railroad taxation system in that state from a basis of percentage on gross receipts to the ad valorem basis that will compel the railroads to pay taxes in proportion to the market value of their tangible property and franchises. It is estimated that this change will mean an increase of over $1,000,000 annually in the railroad tax revenues of the state of Wisconsin, which for the last year were a fraction over $1,600,000, and would, therefore, be increased to over $2,600,000.

The change in the Wisconsin taxation law has been vigorously opposed by the railroad lobby, but the bill passed the house without a dissenting vote, which goes to show that public sentiment in Wisconsin is so overwhelmingly in favor of more equitable taxation that no member of the house dared to record his vote against it. It is confidently predicted that the bill will pass the Wisconsin senate, and Wisconsin, like Michigan, will inaugurate its full measure of tax reform in spite of all corporate opposition and obstruction.

In Michigan the aggregate increase of railroad taxes on the ad valorem basis exceeds $1,300,000 for the year 1902, or more than double the former contribution of Michigan railroads toward the expense of state and local governments. Yet the earning capacity of Michigan and Wisconsin railroads is no greater, if as great, as the earning capacity of the railroads of Nebraska. While the volume of traffic in Michigan and Wisconsin is doubtless much larger, the freight rates in those states are from 30 to 40 per cent lower than the rates charged in Nebraska.

The total amount of taxes—state, county, city and school district—paid by the Nebraska railroads for the past year is about $1,100,000, and this includes taxes on their unsold land grant and town lots outside of their right of way. On an equitable assessment in proportion to all other classes of property the railroads of Nebraska would pay $150,000 more in state taxes, $700,000 more in county and school taxes and $250,000 more in city taxes, or about double the amount they are paying. Even then they would pay several hundred thousand dollars less in Nebraska than they are paying in Michigan and will be compelled to pay in Wisconsin.

The threat of raising freight rates to make up the increase in taxes did not frighten the Michigan legislature last year and does not appear to scare the Wisconsin legislature this year. In Nebraska, where the railroads are already charging all the traffic will bear, freight rates are as high as they can be and the threat of raising freight rates is as idle as it could be. Why, then, should Nebraska law makers falter in the discharge of their plain duty?

THE EXPENSE OF GOVERNMENT.

It takes a great deal of money to administer the government of the United States. As heretofore noted, the appropriations of the Fifty-seventh congress, as stated by Senator Allison, chairman of the senate committee on appropriations, exceeded one and a half billion of dollars, being greater than the appropriations of the Fifty-sixth congress by nearly $114,000,000. This is a large increase, but almost half of it is for an isthmian canal and there has been a large increase in the appropriation for the postal service, which of course must be maintained at the highest standard of efficiency. The last congress also made an appropriation for rivers and harbors, which was not done by the preceding congress. Then there was a considerable increase in naval appropriations, the expediency of which it is presumed will not be questioned.

In looking at the vast total of appropriations many persons will naturally assume that there has been a great deal of extravagance. Mr. Cannon, who has always favored judicious economy in public expenditures, has defended the appropriations of the Fifty-seventh congress. He said: "The republican administration of our government, the dominion of republican policies in both branches of congress since 1897, has given us a system of taxation that has produced a national treasury richer than was ever enjoyed by any nation on the earth and rendered possible these great expenditures for the public welfare." The American people are liberal. They do not wish to cramp the government financially or to impair the efficiency of the public service by withholding the money necessary to the proper maintenance of that service. Their desire is that the high standards which have been established shall be adhered to. But conservative men, viewing the steady increase from year to year in the expense of government, are likely to question whether it is a wise policy to continue on in this way.

It is certainly an excellent thing to have a rich national treasury, but that condition, in which the United States is now peculiarly fortunate among nations, should not be allowed to tempt us, as it is too apt to do, into wasteful courses. The money for carrying on the government comes from the people and it is a perfectly obvious proposition that if we go on heavily increasing expenditures the burden of taxation will sooner or later become severely oppressive. In our present state of prosperity the demand upon the people is not felt to be burdensome, but let conditions change, as they assuredly will in time, and there will come about a different popular feeling in regard to the increasing expense of government. There is every reason to expect that there will be a determined effort in the Fifty-eighth congress to keep down expenditures, restricting them to the actual requirements of the public service. That congress will not be called upon to make some of the appropriations that were required of the last congress and it should find it practicable to make large reductions. "This is a billion dollar country," said the late Thomas B. Reed, but we have gone far beyond that mark and it is a fact not to be lightly considered.

TREATY FAVORABLY REPORTED.

The Colombian treaty has again been reported to the senate, without amendment, by the committee on foreign relations. This, however, does not necessarily mean that there will be early action by the senate, because the opposition of Senator Morgan is still to be reckoned with and how long that will hold out it is impossible to tell. There seems to be a disposition to allow the Alabama senator to go on with his fight against the treaty as long as he has the physical endurance to do so. It is a quite remarkable situation, this of a single senator and he seventy-nine years old baffling for weeks the will of a majority of senators and must seem to most people to be carrying the "courtesy" idea to an unwarranted extreme.

Mr. Morgan has proposed a number of amendments to the treaty and they have received careful consideration. Secretary Hay has been consulted in regard to the expediency of adopting some of them, but in his opinion any change in the convention would jeopardize the whole transaction. This is evidently also the judgment of the committee on foreign relations and of a majority of the senate. Indeed it is obvious that the purpose of Mr. Morgan in his amendments is to kill the treaty, hoping thereby, of course, to bring about the selection of the Nicaragua route. He will not be able, it is needless to say, to effect this. The treaty will be ratified as negotiated and its supporters should accomplish this without unnecessary delay. We think it will be generally admitted that ample consideration has been shown Senator Morgan.

A PERPLEXING SITUATION.

The failure of congress to do anything for the relief of industrial and commercial conditions in our eastern possessions has left a situation that is causing some perplexity and anxiety at Washington. It is said that officials of the War department take a gloomy view of the matter and confess that they do not know what may happen in the desolated islands. There was one appropriation of $3,000,000, which it is understood will be expended by the Philippine commission in constructing roads and other improvements, thus giving employment to a portion of the natives, but this is only a drop in the bucket and is wholly inadequate to provide the full measure of relief needed.

What is required is the promotion of the industries and the commerce of the islands and this can only be done by such legislation as was passed by the house of representatives, which lowered the tariff on Philippine products. It is perhaps not to be expected that we should accord to the archipelago the same consideration that has been given to Porto Rico, but it is plain that a larger concession, in the matter of the tariff, will have to be made. Nothing can be done, however, until the meeting of the Fifty-eighth congress and in the meantime there may be serious trouble in the Philippines. The destitute natives, seeing no prospect of early relief, are quite likely to organize revolts and increase the difficulties of the political situation. The failure of congress to provide relief will prove very embarrassing to the commission and may have consequences costly to the government.

MUNICIPAL MACHINE LEGISLATION.

It goes without saying that municipal reform will not be promoted by changing the time of city elections from May to November under the pretext that a saving will be effected by merging city elections with county and state elections. The object of separating municipal elections from general elections is to give free swing, as far as possible, to independent voting. In other words, to give the taxpaying citizen the privilege of making his choice of city officials and councilmen on nonpartisan lines. But when the taxpaying citizen who is anxious to vote for the best men finds himself compelled to make his choice in an exciting political campaign, when party lines are sharply drawn, independent action becomes almost impossible.

If, for example, candidates for municipal offices are to be voted for in November, 1904, at the same time and on the same ballot with presidential electors, state officers and legislative candidates who are to elect the United States senators, they would dwindle into insignificance and receive no more attention from the great majority of voters than do the candidates for constable on the county ticket.

Instead of divorcing the municipal machine from active interference in the legislative, congressional and state campaign, the merging of city elections with general elections would force the municipal machine into pernicious activity that cannot but affect the interest of the taxpayers disastrously. Municipal reformers in all great population centers have been striving for years to divorce party politics from municipal contests and divorce as far as possible the city elections from general elections. The proposed merger of city, county and state elections in Omaha is, therefore, not in line with municipal reform legislation, but on the contrary it is machine legislation of the rankest kind.

The legislature of Illinois is wrestling with an act for the regulation and restriction of the bill board nuisance. In the meantime the bill board trust is not idle. Its lobbyists have entered remonstrance against the enactment of the pending bill on the ground that it would work hardship to union labor. It is claimed that the abatement of the bill board nuisance would throw out of employment a great many billposters, painters, decorators and artists who wield the jackplane and woodsaw. This plausible plea, however, does not seem to have sufficient weight with the Illinois law makers, who insist that the bill board law is simply designed to regulate and restrict the erection and construction of bill boards in regard to dimension, location and position, to protect the public from the menace to life and limb in case of fire or storm and do away with the eyesore whenever located in residence districts or upon approaches to the parks and boulevards that people's money has been expended to beautify.

The cattle raisers' association of Texas has invoked the power of the Interstate Commerce commission to prohibit the various railroads that converge at the Chicago union stock yards demanding and receiving in addition to their regularly published transportation charges the sum of $2 per carload of live stock as compensation for terminal service in making the deliveries of live stock at the stock yards. The Interstate Commerce commission will doubtless give the Texas cattle raisers a hearing, but the question is, What will they do and what can they do to protect the cattle raisers and cattle shippers from extortion?

The selection of Tillman as one of the democratic steering committee to direct the movements of the minority in the United States senate during the next two years shows that the democracy is still intimately bound up with the most reckless leadership developed by the free silver craze. Tillman represents all that is odious in the party, yet maintains himself at the front in its councils. How a party following champions of pitchfork methods in national policies can expect to inspire confidence among the conservative elements of labor and capital is not easily understood.

Emperor William disagrees in toto with President Roosevelt on the large family proposition and points to the fact that only recently the burgomaster of Spandau attempted to introduce to him a letter carrier who became father for the twenty-fifth time. That would not have been the way of President Roosevelt. He would have been not only delighted to meet that patriarchal letter carrier, but would have insisted on seeing the mother to ascertain whether twenty-four of them were triplets.

Will the Precedent Hold?

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

It is a matter of history that no judge has ever been elevated to the presidency, and it is not at all likely that the precedent will be smashed in the case of Judge Parker.

What We Are Worrying About.

Atlanta Journal.

It has been demonstrated that combines—"trusts," as we now call them—have existed since 2,000 years before Christ. But, naturally, we are not worrying about the "B. C." combines. It's those that are on our chest right now that we want to shake off.

Every Brick Hit.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

When Uncle Joe Cannon made his crushing speech against the relic-worshipers, closing with the eloquent apostrophe, "My God! where is the clothes line?" he had to his credit the most effective speech of the session. This held the record until it was taken by another speech, but that other speech was also made by Uncle Joe, who simply beat his own record. His speech against the one-man power of the senate came down on that usually complaisant and stolid body "like a thousand of bricks," and, judging by the outcry, every brick hit.

Growing Power of Directors.

New York Evening Post.

A study of recent corporation charters discloses the fact that there has been a growing tendency to increase the authority of directors and to make it difficult to effect a change in the original management of the companies. The history of railroad construction in the United States affords numerous examples of the evils that may follow from intrusting to one set of men the entire management of the property of another. For this sort of enterprise the issue of bonds has furnished ample facilities, and it has been possible for a body of stockholders to exercise complete control of a road that was constructed chiefly or wholly with borrowed capital.

Dating Canned Goods.

Chicago Chronicle.

A bill has been introduced in the New York legislature making it obligatory upon manufacturers to date every can containing food. The proposal is just and necessary. Every kind of canned edibles, whether animal or vegetable is liable to decay even when embalmed. Though the canning process itself be successful at the time the fluid solder is applied to the tin, subjection to prolonged heat or damp has a chemical effect upon the contents of the can. Some kinds of canned goods will continue wholesome for a prolonged period. Other grades degenerate within a twelvemonth. Every can containing what purports to be nutrition should be dated.

DOOM OF THE BIG TREES.

Failure of Congress to Pass an Act for Their Preservation.

Philadelphia North American.

Among the bills passed by the senate and set aside by the filibusters of the house was one providing for the preservation of the Calaveras grove of big trees, which will be made into lumber unless the United States or the state of California shall acquire the property by purchase. There are more trees in the Calaveras group of Sequoia gigantea than in any other grove. It was the first grove discovered by white men and is the most widely known. The Mariposa, Tuolumne, Tulare and Fresno groups are protected by state or federal reservations and parks, but the Calaveras trees, saved for nearly half a century by private owners at a sacrifice of personal interests, have fallen at last into the hands of lumbermen and are in imminent peril of destruction.

More than ten years ago the state forester of California called attention to the danger, and urged that the state intervene to save the grove, but the legislature paid no heed to the suggestion, and eventually the owner of the Calaveras big trees was obliged to sell the property. Earnest efforts have been made by citizens of California and others to collect a fund for the purchase of the grove, but the movement must fail unless the government or some millionaire lends timely aid.

TALK OF THE STATE PRESS.

Lyons Sun: It may be, and doubtless is true, that the proposed new revenue law is not all that we could hope for, but it is a long step in the right direction as we understand its provisions, and it should be passed.

Falls City Journal: The laws of Nebraska no longer provide bounties for the scalps of wild animals. The bounty law has long been a farce and it is not the policy of republican legislators to leave farce laws upon the books.

Aurora Republican: Indications point to a boom this year for Nebraska. Already the incoming land buyers are upon us and they will be sweeping in in flocks later on to snap up the choice land of the great west. Nebraska's future is certainly bright.

North Platte Tribune: State Treasurer Mortensen has made a new departure in the conduct of the treasurer's office by issuing a statement giving the name of the banks in which the state funds are deposited and the amount in each bank. This is a departure that is to be commended.

Madison Chronicle: The house has voted to postpone indefinitely the bill taxing railroad terminals in cities for municipal purposes. Now if the roads can arrange to crawl out of all other forms of just taxation they will no doubt be well satisfied with the work of the general assembly.

Lyons Sun: A bill requiring school officers to file an estimate of expenses for the coming year, and making it illegal to use money for purposes other than named in the estimate, has been introduced in the state senate. The bill is calculated to stop extravagance and misappropriation of funds.

Rushville Standard: The Nebraska legislature has repealed the bounty law on wolf and wild-cat scalps. The legislature made a mistake by so doing. They use strenuous methods to keep the settlers from killing game and, by repealing the scalp bounty, protecting the worst game destroyers in the nation.

Auburn Post: The Post has read the new revenue bill and although there may be some things in it that could be improved upon, yet as a whole it seems to be quite an improvement upon our present revenue law and should be passed and given a trial, as it certainly is an improvement upon the present system of revenue.

Hastings Tribune: We can see no good reason why anyone, aside from the lawyers, should oppose the proposed bill in the Nebraska legislature which calls for the reduction in the judicial districts. By cutting off several judges and reporters much money will be saved and the work will be attended to just the same.

Wayne Herald: A bill is in the senate for the appointment of a state accountant at a salary of $2,000 a year, whose duty it will be to oversee the systems of bookkeeping in the various state departments and institutions and provide for uniformity. Heretofore there has been an entire lack of system in some of the institutions, and without doubt the state has lost much money because of lax methods.

Fairbury Gazette: Some fellow from the sand hills has introduced a bill in the legislature to punish anyone by fine who will "kill any goose, duck or other wild fowl from behind a blind, etc." He must go out in the open and kill it he kills at all. We venture the opinion that this statesman couldn't hit a flock of barns if he tried and that he is mad at someone who can. Such legislation is nonsense.

Springfield Monitor: The house by a vote of 53 to 38 on house roll 330 on Tuesday showed the hold the railroads have on this branch of our legislature by indefinitely postponing this much-talked of bill. Two fusion members went with the railroad crowd in defeating this measure. The friends of the bill still have hopes of reviving it or something that will accomplish the same results, but it is rather doubtful.

Madison Chronicle: It may sound whimsical, but nevertheless there is good reason for believing that if the legislature was treated as juries in important cases sometimes are—that is, kept away from all outside influences and kept at work upon the duties of their office, with opportunities to hear arguments in regard to proposed measures in open session—the result would be far more satisfactory than it usually is under the present system.

Albion News: There is one provision in the new Nebraska revenue law that deserves commendation. Assessors are to be elected for four years and cannot succeed themselves. One trouble with the average assessor is that he wants to succeed himself and that he too often permits his political aspirations to interfere with his duties. When he knows that he cannot succeed himself he will be more apt to give the public full benefit of his work.

Aurora Republican: The fate of the revenue bill hangs in the balance. Two weeks ago it had a bright future, but its prospects are none too flattering now. A feeling of partisanship has arisen that seriously affects the passage of the bill and makes its path a rocky one. It is to be hoped that our legislators will put away their petty differences and unite to give Nebraska needed financial relief. This is certainly the great matter of the session and it should not be omitted.

Albion News: It has been the persistent claim of the fusionists that the present legislature, which is largely republican, is dominated and controlled by the railroads. The truth or falsity of this claim will soon be revealed. Political talk is often "hot wind," but votes are recorded in black and white. Republicans in the legislature should consider that the fate of their party and the integrity of their friends and the republican press of the state is at stake. The News, for one, has no supply of whitewash on hand with which to attempt to make black appear white.

Albion News: Governor Mickey urges the need for constitutional amendments in this state. He thinks that the supreme court should be enlarged to five members, with salaries of $5,000; that the salaries of state officers should be raised generally, and that the provision should be made for permanent investment of the school fund. One house of the legislature has already passed a resolution for a constitutional convention, but this is not what the governor wants. Such a convention, he estimates, would cost at least $200,000 and he prefers to have the amendments submitted to voters at the next general election. That this may be done, he suggests that the election law be amended by putting constitutional questions in a more prominent position on the ballot.

Fremont Tribune: A bill has been introduced in the legislature providing for the detention and treatment of inebriates and it ought to be enacted into law. The inebriates of Nebraska are as dangerous to themselves and society as the inebriates of other states who are put under the bars by statutory enactment. Power and place to commit confirmed boozers are essential to the public good. When a man gets thoroughly pickled in alcohol he is as likely to work injury as a mad dog. It would be improper, according to the rules of civilized society, to dispose of the two in the same fashion, yet it is not in the highest degree consistent to extinguish the one and permit the other to roam at will. So long as we have laws regulating the storage of powder, the sale of poison, the inspection of coal oil and gasoline, we should have statutes made and provided for the detention in cold storage of human budge tanks that are liable to explode with disagreeable and, mayhap, disastrous effects.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

For the first time since winter began it is now possible for New Yorkers to breathe deep and long without swallowing a luncheon of soft coal soot. It is also possible to navigate the city streets in daytime without a lantern. The clouds of soft coal smoke that for three months played havoc with the vision and polluted the atmosphere has been blown aside and old-time cleanliness is visible. As soon as the hard coal squeeze loosened up the authorities "got busy" and promptly forced a return to hard coal.

Nowadays women are not content with treading close upon the heels of men in the paths of daring, but seem eager to blaze the way. This holds good if "one swallow makes a summer." Sunday a Brooklyn girl made the perilous trip across the new, uncompleted East river bridge, being the first of either sex (except the workmen) to make the trip. The honor belongs to Miss H. E. Way. Midway the boardwalk was interrupted by a gap of 100 feet, where the supporting iron had been removed for some changes. Miss Way proceeded on the open ironwork to one side around this gap, and completed the crossing to the New York tower, whence she returned over the same open iron work.

A wild wail, ringing out shrilly from his audience, disconcerted E. H. Sothern at the Garden theater a few nights ago and caused a commotion that interfered seriously with the smoothness of the play. The man who cried aloud is Philip H. Levey, manager of a leather goods establishment, who had been impaled upon a hatpin. Directly behind Levey sat a young woman who endeavored in the fashion of young women at a play to secure her hat to the seat in front of her with the hatpin. Instead she fastened the hat to Levey. The long steel pin slipped through the plush chair back and ran an inch or two into the man's body. An altercation ensued, which was interrupted by a policeman, who removed both parties. There was a discussion in the lobby, in which the young woman upbraided Levey for causing such a commotion over a trivial matter and bringing humiliation on her.

Mishaps in restaurants are not common in New York, where only the best trained servants can secure employment, but accidents do happen sometimes, and one woman who began an evening's entertainment last week by dining at a well known Broadway resort was convinced that absolute immunity from bad luck cannot be secured at any sacrifice. This is on the authority of the Mail and Express.

The evening was Friday, and when she went to put on a long neck chain in which there should have been fourteen diamonds she found but thirteen. Her escort unthinkingly sprinkled salt on a side dish for her celery, and she had tripped over another woman's dress as she was passing to her table. But the crowning piece of ill luck came when a waiter's coat caught the diamond set comb in her hair. Before he could stop he had almost pulled the woman sideways from her chair; her coiffure was much out of place, and when she investigated the condition of the comb it was found to be badly damaged.

Of course the management of the restaurant was apologetic, but Mrs. Blank's temper was too much ruffled, and the opera lost one of its shining partierre lights that night, for she insisted on going home as soon as the dinner was over.

Subway contractors stand in need of a run of good luck to come out even on their respective jobs. Up to the present time they have been pursued by costly misfortunes. Hardly a month passes without some accident entailing loss of life, money and delay. Ira Shaler, one of the subcontractors, lost both his fortune and his life, and other contractors have had their profits reduced or wiped out altogether by mishaps or unexpected difficulties that caused expense not counted upon. The latest subway accident occurred near the Harlem river. A dam that protected the excavation from the river was undermined, and with a roar the waters of the Harlem rushed into the subway, filling it to the level of the river.

Eighteen men at work in the tunnel had narrow escapes. The loss is estimated at $100,000, and a delay in construction work of at least two weeks will be caused. About three weeks ago the river undermined the dam and flooded the tunnel, and it took two weeks to get it pumped out.

Former Police Commissioner Michael C. Murphy died last week. Since 1889 he had been unable to take nourishment in the ordinary way. Physicians decided that he had a tumor of the stomach. This they healed. In the meantime he had almost starved to death, and from 225 pounds was reduced in weight to less than 100 pounds. When his stomach was all right again it was found that he was suffering from stricture of the aesophagus, which made it impossible for him to swallow food. An incision was made in the wall of his stomach, a silver tube was inserted, and for fourteen years Colonel Murphy had his food pumped into himself through this tube. It caused him no inconvenience until about two years ago, when his general health began to fail.

Overwhelmed with Confusion.

Detroit Free Press.

The opponents of a larger navy must be overwhelmed with confusion when they realize that if there had been enough armored cruisers Crowninshield would not have been ordered to use Chicago as a flagship, and hence would not have asked to be retired. Even if we have no regard for the Monroe doctrine, we should have a little for our Crowninshields.

Gorman's Back Breaking Job.

Philadelphia Press.

Senator Gorman has been restored to his former position of democratic leader in the senate. He has a big job to tackle right away. During the Marylander's absence from the senate the democratic donkey has been reckless and destructive in the extreme. He has kicked the democratic party full of awful holes and isn't going to tame easily.

THE OLD RELIABLE

ROYAL

BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

PERSONAL NOTES.

A Missouri editor thinks too many people in his state have the mistaken notion that they can lift themselves out of trouble with a corkscrew.

Senator Frye once refused to write his reminiscences for a magazine, declaring himself opposed to the telling by public men of "tales out of school."

When the proposed royal residence at Posen, for which Emperor William has just asked a grant, is completed, he will have fifty-two castles and lordly dwellings in Prussia and other parts of Germany.

Mayor-elect John Weaver of Philadelphia sailed for Europe last week in search of health, having broken down in his recent campaign. He will return about April 1. He is to visit his old home in Stourport, England.

General John W. Noble has left St. Louis on a trip to California and while there he will visit the great forests which General Noble was instrumental in having preserved while he was secretary of the interior under President Harrison.

It was unkind of Dr. Lorenz to say that American women cannot cook. It is to be hoped his published remarks will not penetrate to the kitchens of the homes he visited. The servant problem is difficult enough as it is.

Congressman Lessler of New York was the smallest man physically in the house last session, weighing only 110 pounds. On the eve of adjournment "Hank" Smith of Michigan asked him: "What are you going to do next summer?" By way of a joke Lessler said: "First thing I am going to reduce my weight." "How are you going to do it," drawled Smith, "cut off a leg?"

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

"I am a believer in the motto 'pay as you go,'" said the prudent man.
"So am I," answered Senator Sorghum; "and I am also convinced that the more you are willing to pay the further you are likely to go."—Washington Star.

"Doesn't so much wine weaken your powers of invention?" asked the intimate friend.
"On the contrary," said the writer of sensational stories, "it stimulates them. I have to work like the mischief to keep up the supply."—Chicago Tribune.

Miss Sweet—Mr. Jolly took me for a Vassar graduate when he first met me.
Mr. Batcheller—Strange! That wasn't at all what I was inclined to take you for.
Miss Sweet—No? What then?
Mr. Batcheller—My wife.—Philadelphia Press.

"Might I hope that if I asked you to marry me the answer would be favorable?"
"Might I hope that if I said yes to your question you would really and truly ask me to marry you?"
"Jane, be mine!"
"I'm yours."

"Every time you draw a breath," said the young man who dabbled in things scientific, "somebody dies."
"Well," replied the practical maid, "I'm sure it isn't up to me to stop breathing on that account."—Chicago News.

"That's the meanest man I ever ran across," said the book agent.
"What has he done?"
"Kept me calling day after day, and finally said that he didn't care anything about reading, but that he enjoyed hearing me talk."—Washington Star.

"Do you believe these beauty doctors, who pretend to make over noses and straighten crooked mouths, and all that ever really help any one?"
"Yes, I know of one of them who is supporting a tired husband and their four children in fine style."—Chicago Record-Herald.

In a Shoe Store.

"Have you felt slippers, sir?" she asked.
The boy clerk blushed and scratched his head,
Then, smiling back, he found his tongue:
"I felt them often when I was young."
—Boston Herald.

"HOW MUCH?"

Brooklyn Eagle.

The query of the country that's now recognized as such—
The query that's most often heard, is simply this: "How much?"

Some man asserts one horse will win a certain noted race.
"How much?" a bettor thunders, shaking money in his face.

A woman wants some yards of silk that softens to her touch;
She looks it over carefully, and then she asks "How much?"

Perhaps there is a little deal some people would put through.
"How much?" a legislator whispers, just to learn what they will do.

A candidate is anxious a good paying place to clutch.
The party boss smiles knowingly and softly asks "How much?"

"I have a title," said some lord; "your daughter I would wed."
"How much?" the millionaire returns, with weary shake of head.

A man who has a painting boasts "A gem it is, and Dutch!"
The visitor looks idly on and idly asks "How much?"

What will you give for this, good sir? What will you take for that?
How much, how much for prestige franchise, title, gown or hat?

As Good as There Is

The hat we sell for $4.00 is as good as there is. You may pay a dollar more for it with a hatter's label.

Very good hats at $3.00 and $2.50 as well.

NO CLOTHING FITS LIKE OURS.

Browning, King & Co.

R. S. Wilcox, Manager.