THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. 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 May, 1903, was as follows:

1	30,990	17	28,450
2	30,675	18	31,030
3	30,200	19	30,780
4	30,590	20	30,860
5	30,730	21	30,870
6	35,570	22	30,940
7	30,670	23	30,830
8	30,810	24	28,230
9	30,740	25	30,830
10	27,775	26	30,790
11	30,440	27	30,750
12	30,370	28	30,680
13	30,620	29	30,660
14	30,730	30	31,850
15	30,650	31	27,900
16	30,890		

Total	953,000
Less unsold and returned copies	10,348
Net total sales	943,552
Net average sales	30,437

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

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

Joseph Chamberlain must feel like the man who picked up the hot end of the political poker.

To the other adjectives used to describe the Mississippi we will now have to add the word deceitful.

How accommodating of the fire fiend to wait until summer before disporting himself at the Florida winter resorts.

The marriage of Governor Bailey of Kansas to a Nebraska woman may be taken as a celebration of the Kansas-Nebraska act.

The county seat fight in Boyd county has been terminated without loss of life. These friendly frontier contests are not what they used to be.

Senator Clark of Montana will preside over the coming session of the irrigation congress. Senator Clark's experience with stock watering gives him special qualifications for this position.

The question who is to pay the engineers engaged to appraise the water works property is not half so important as the question whether the city has a fair show with the appraisement board.

Omaha has fortunately had no serious automobile accidents as yet. That is no reason, however, why precautions should not be taken to prevent them by speed regulations and boiler inspection.

The anti-machine councilmen are standing nobly by the machine mayor while the machine councilmen are trying to toss him over their horns. The spectacle is exhilarating as well as suggestive.

The city council has repeatedly turned down various propositions to supply street signs for the privilege of using them also for advertising purposes. The proposition has no more merit now than when presented the last time.

Is it not just barely possible that the friction over the ratification of the Panama canal treaty is being encouraged, if not incited, by people interested in the Nicaragua route? If the treaty goes through the Nicaragua project is dead, while should it fail Nicaragua will have another chance.

It is to be noted that according to the city comptroller's exhibit the judgment fund which started out with $7,849 only five months ago has already dropped down to $1,083, with seven months of the year to hear from. Unless the new city attorney gets down to business better than he has so far, the judgment fund will be the chief contributor to the municipal overlap at the end of the year.

The fact that the receipts from police court fines are overtopping the record does not mean that Omaha is more disorderly or more lawless than usual. It means that we have a police judge who has no special failing of leniency toward petty offenders, that we have a police court clerk who is vigilant in the collection of fine money, and also that the people arraigned in the police court now have the wherewithal to pay the penalty.

If we will believe President Baer, the anthracite coal roads are following in the footsteps of Jim Hill's community of interest combines in conducting transportation business on a philanthropic basis. Mr. Baer would have us understand that his corporation is making no profit whatever out of the coal business, but, on the contrary, is yielding its right to reasonable compensation out of pure soft-heartedness for the poor coal consumer. The question is, has Mr. Baer really pursuaded himself to believe his own story or does he think the public is more gullible than he is?

DOMINATING THE PACIFIC.

The interest created abroad by the statement of President Roosevelt that the United States is destined to dominate the Pacific ocean, meaning thereby that this country would ultimately have commercial pre-eminence in that great sea, has been regarded even in this country, as well as in Europe, as a somewhat extravagant assumption. Yet a little thoughtful attention to the conditions can hardly fail to bring conviction that there are excellent reasons in support of the president's view. Indeed, it would seem to be inevitable that in time this nation, unless its people should become utterly indifferent to their great opportunity, must attain and hold a pre-eminenence in the commerce of the Pacific which will give it practical domination there. This does not mean that any other nation is to be excluded from the trade of the Pacific, for that is not the policy of this country, but simply that the United States is to enjoy in that ocean a larger measure of commercial interest and power than any other country.

A Pacific coast paper very well explains the situation in saying that the United States is the dominant power in the Western hemisphere, being superior in strength, in influence and in authority to all other American states. This indisputable fact does not involve the idea that this nation claims to exercise any dominion or direct authority over any of the other American states. It does not exclude from consideration the fact that there are other powers having interests on the Pacific which they are expected to care for and protect. Great Britain, Russia and other powers have interests in the Pacific which they will care for and endeavor to promote. But all these are inferior to the interests of this country, if we properly measure what should be ours in the vast possibilities of Pacific commerce which the future holds. It is this which Mr. Roosevelt had in mind when he spoke of the dominance of the United States in the Pacific ocean. He had no idea of the exercise of an authority not entirely peaceful and having a due regard for the rights and privileges of every other nation. He had no thought of any such impossible thing as a domination of the Pacific to the exclusion of any other country. What he obviously meant was that by reason of the position of the United States in relation to the Pacific it is inevitable that this country must secure and maintain a pre-eminence upon that great ocean.

It is impossible to doubt that this will come, though the time of its attainment may be somewhat remote. American enterprise, however, is already being directed toward its achievement and this is of a nature that promises success. There is being shown a belief in the possibilities of Asiatic commerce which is of a very practical character and there is good reason to expect that this will be more strongly manifested from year to year, as the opportunities in connection with this trade become more fully appreciated. Meanwhile there can be no doubt that the forecast of Mr. Roosevelt in regard to our commercial dominance in the Pacific was made wisely and with a substantial basis.

CUTTING OUT POLITICS.

It is said to be the determination of President Roosevelt and the postmaster general that hereafter the Postoffice department is to be run independent of politics. A Washington dispatch to an eastern paper says that the future policy will be to abandon the policy of notifying congressmen of prospective changes in their postoffices. The department will go right ahead and arrange its own affairs to suit the judgment of the responsible officials. All necessary information will promptly be furnished senators and representatives when requested, but an effort will be made to eliminate the postal service as a factor in local politics throughout the country.

This proposition is stated to have originated with Postmaster General Payne and to have received the hearty approval of the president. Doubtless such a change from the method that has been pursued would be found beneficial, if it be practicable, but it is safe to say that it would encounter a very strong opposition from congressmen generally, with whom the naming of postmasters is a prerogative that most of them will be very unwilling to surrender. There is of course no valid reason why the department cannot select these officials without the intervention of senators and representatives, or that if this were done the selections would not be quite as satisfactory as under the present method, but the course that is pursued has prevailed so long that the proposed departure, assuming the report to be well founded, will not be readily accepted by members of congress generally, however strongly approved by popular opinion. That the elimination of the postal service as a factor in politics is desirable is so obvious as not to need argument.

WHAT REPUBLICANS ARE ENTITLED TO.

Commenting on a gratuitous remark in one of the country papers to the effect that the really good thing the republican state committee did at its last meeting was to reduce the representation of Douglas county in the coming state convention, the Lincoln Star combats the intimation that representation was reduced and declares that "at any rate Douglas county will have all the representation that it is entitled to in the state convention." The Star would go even further and have the vote on governor adopted permanently as the basis of representation because the candidate for governor aspires to the chief office in the state and is entitled to the full party vote.

While this discussion is purely academic so far as this year's convention is concerned, there is no use befogging the political atmosphere in which it is enveloped. There is really no more reason why the vote on governor should be the basis of delegate apportionment to conventions than the vote on congressman, on treasurer, on school superintendent or on university regent. As a matter of fact, with the exception of Hayward in 1898, the republican vote on governor has not been the basis adopted in Nebraska for ten years past. After each presidential election the vote on president is usually accepted and it has so happened in this state that on several occasions besides the last, the vote on governor has not reflected the relative party strength of different sections of the state and has therefore been discarded in favor of some candidate more representative.

What every political party should aim at in its conventions is to accord its members a proportionate voice irrespective of the particular county or subdivision in which they happen to reside. If abnormal conditions have entered into the vote for governor the vote for some other officer should be taken, or perhaps, the average vote cast for all the candidates on the ticket. To give a county extra representation because the particular candidate happened to live there and to receive a personal vote from the opposition is just as unfair as to cut down the vote of the home county of the opposing candidate, where the latter would naturally run ahead. The party policy above all things should be directed toward building up by attracting new recruits and not toward tearing down by driving away support just to punish some county in which for local reasons a particular candidate for governor happened to be unpopular.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL.

The affairs of the municipal corporation known as the City of Omaha are administered by a president, under the title of mayor, and a board of nine directors, designated by the charter as councilmen. The mayor and council, that is, the president and board of directors, are, by the city charter, made jointly responsible for the appointment of all officers and employes on the city payroll, except such as are made elective by the people.

While the mayor has the initiative of selection and appointment the council is empowered to pass judgment upon his appointees and may ratify or reject at its pleasure, or rather according to its best judgment, such of the mayor's appointees as it may deem incompetent, unworthy or unsatisfactory. In this respect the council differs in no essential particular from the board of directors of any other corporation whose president is required to recommend subordinate officers for ratification or rejection.

The refusal of the city council, acting in the capacity of a board of directors, to confirm appointments submitted by the mayor does not necessarily reflect upon the integrity or sound judgment of the mayor, nor does it imply that the rejected appointee is incompetent or dishonest. The refusal to confirm may, as in the present conflict between the mayor and council, simply indicate a lack of courtesy or discretion on one side, and an insistence upon mutual recognition and mutual co-operation on the other. In other words, the majority of the council have locked horns with the mayor over appointments because it feels slighted by the mayor's attempt to ignore its prerogatives as a co-ordinate branch of government.

Such a contention is by no means new, although deplorable for many reasons. As a general thing these conflicts between governing bodies occur between representatives of opposite political parties when, for example, the mayor is republican and the council democratic or vice versa or, as in the controversy between the Board of Public Works and the council, the one body is democratic and the other republican. But there is really no excuse for such discord where the mayor and council profess the same political creed and belong to the same political denomination or faction. In the long run such contests are like the marital debates between man and wife—the woman always has the last say—and so has the council, unless there is mutual concession and conciliation.

South Omaha voters are being bombarded, importuned and instructed by working men, who do not labor, and taxpayers who do not pay taxes except over their nom de plume, to vote for every bond proposition submitted for the coming special election. One of the reasons advanced to clinch the bond proposition is that South Omaha may be annexed to Omaha, and that when it becomes a part of Greater Omaha it will either be slighted or totally neglected in the matter of public improvements. Such calamity forecasts are not borne out by the experience of other towns annexed to larger cities. In every instance of annexation, notably Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis and other cities whose limits have been extended and whose governments have been amalgamated the territory annexed has secured more improvements in the first year after annexation than they had prior to their absorption. Does it stand to reason that if South Omaha became a part of Omaha that Omaha would not extend its paving districts, sewerage districts and fire protection to South Omaha, not merely as a matter of public necessity, but as a matter of pride?

Congressman Burton, who has been looking into river and harbor improvements abroad, suggests that the French system of requiring the localities directly concerned to share in the expenses of the improvement work is worthy of serious consideration by congress, with a view to incorporation into the American scheme of river and harbor improvements. It is safe to say that if the state or other subdivisions within which the appropriations have been applied had to put up 50 per cent of the fund a whole lot of questionable enterprises would be struck off the list, especially in the south, which has been the most voracious guest at the river and harbor appropriation table. On the other hand, some very important pieces of work would likewise go undone because the localities especially benefited could not be induced to shoulder the financial responsibilities.

And now The Bee is pilloried by the brass band charity organ because it has not deigned to announce that Mayor Moores has forwarded $3,000 to the Kansas sufferers. This omission is, of course, charitably interpreted as "depriving suffering human beings from receiving succor and support." Inasmuch as The Bee had published the main facts and figures it was cheerfully disposed to allow the Ram's Horn organ the monopoly of self-glorification since no special announcement of the remittance of the funds was deemed necessary. Inferentially the World-Herald committed an unpardonable offense and proved itself a deadly enemy of all humanity when it failed to editorially commend the editor of The Bee when he mailed more than $2,000 in checks to the McKinley Memorial Monument association, and more than $1,000 to General Corbin for the relief of the widow of General Lawton.

Lawyers for the Northern Securities company deny the jurisdiction of Minnesota over its operations on the ground that it is an interstate corporation subject to federal control, if to any control at all. When they get into the federal courts these same lawyers will probably contend that there is no federal jurisdiction because federal control would be an invasion of state's rights. It is a cold day when the corporation lawyer does not catch them coming and going.

The patrons of the World-Herald are being regaled, as usual, with cuttlefish editorials on the half shell and Salvation army exhortations with brass band and castanet accompaniments. Not a word about the water works appraisement, not a word about the county fund deposits, county board extravagance, policeman-slaughter, or any local issues that concern the taxpayers and citizens of this community.

It did not take the seventh son of a seventh daughter to foresee that the novel and unique plan of checks and counter checks which requires all public works employes, from street commissioner to street sweep, to be confirmed by the council, would beget confusion and contention. But the Douglas delegation in the late legislature had to get even with somebody.

The speaker at the commencement exercises of a private academy here in Omaha is said to have drawn invidious comparisons with the public schools. The public schools may be subject to just criticism for abuses or for misfits in the teaching force, but the public school system needs no defense.

To the Select Few.

Baltimore American.

A trustmaker said in an address before a college lately that one good thing about trusts is that they give opportunities. That appears to be the principal objection to them. They leave no opportunities for anybody else.

One Rare Advantage.

Chicago News.

Mr. Roosevelt has one advantage not enjoyed by many of his predecessors. He is so certain of renomination that he can run the presidency as he pleases without pausing to consider how some one or other of the factions in the party is going to feel about it.

Extraordinary Extremes.

Philadelphia Record.

It required many days of rain to raise the great flood which has wrought such destruction down the Kansas, Missouri and Des Moines rivers, and which, still on its way to the sea, is overflowing town and country southward from where the Missouri joins the Mississippi. But less than one night of rain caused the flood that has destroyed, in and around Spartanburg, S. C., about as many lives and nearly as much property as did the Kansas or Kaw river flood at Topeka. More destructive of life than either flood was the tornado which leveled a part of Gainesville, Ga., last week in shorter time than it takes to tell. It has already proved a year marked by extraordinary extremes in the manifestations of atmospheric forces. The northeastern states, with their drouth now passing beyond all recorded precedent for this season of the year, are not worse afflicted than some other parts of the country are in other ways.

WHY PEOPLE FEAR THE TRUSTS.

Bedrock Basis of Popular Dread and Suspicion.

Saturday Evening Post.

Regiments of arguments for capital trusts and labor trusts are hurled at the people of this country, but they continue to be suspicious, continue to listen attentively to anyone who comes forward with a plausible "remedy" for what the trust advocates say is not disease but a national development of healthy growth. What is the reason for this tenacious, not-to-be-reasoned-with popular instinct? The usual answer is "popular ignorance." But that is as shallow as it is easy. Analysis discloses the truth, the bedrock basis for popular dread and suspicion. It is expressed in the one word, power.

The people of this democracy know that their liberty rests upon equality, that in our social scheme no man and no group of men is permitted to have irresponsible, unendable power. The corporation has always been sharply watched by the people because it looked like a something possessed of real power. The combination, that amazing expansion of the corporation idea, is suspected and dreaded because it is obviously a depository of genuine power—the brains and muscles and capital of thousands intrusted to one man who is in no way responsible to anyone or checked by anyone, so long as he earns dividends and interest, no matter how. And for obvious reasons this applies equally, will presently apply as forcefully, to the labor "combine."

"No other depositories of power than the people themselves," says Jefferson, "have ever yet been found which did not end in converting to their own profit the earnings of those committed to their charge." And this the people believe—and can't be reasoned out of by plausibilities or philanthropies.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

The deadlock in the building trades in New York City since May 5 is estimated to have cost in wages alone $14,000,000. Between 110,000 and 120,000 skilled mechanics are idle. The number includes 10,000 carpenters, 7,500 bricklayers, 4,000 plasterers, 4,000 helpers, 8,000 iron workers, 2,000 electrical workers, besides boiler makers, machinists, marble workers, tile layers, glaziers and 50,000 unskilled laborers.

The shut-down in the meantime is estimated to have tied up $200,000,000 of capital, has retarded work on the schools and made conditions under which many owners and intending occupiers of new buildings are bound to lose money. There are 2,000 building contractors involved in the present trouble whose loss of profit, rents and other expenses are said to figure up between $7,000,000 and $8,000,000.

Several millions of dollars are estimated to have been hopelessly lost by enterprising merchants who had hoped to occupy buildings at a given time, so as to catch a certain class of trade. Small storekeepers whose sole custom is that of workingmen are beginning to lose heavily. In a great many cases they have been paid from week to week and now they are keeping their customers on credit so as to hold their custom until the shut-down ends. Many of their customers have gone to other cities for work, in which case the debts of the customers are little likely to be recovered.

The strike, it is estimated so far, has cost employers, employes and others in the neighborhood of $25,000,000, including the losses of persons indirectly affected.

Of all the public buildings which are going up and will go up in New York it seems as if hotels are the most numerous. It might be objected that theaters are entitled to be classed ahead of hotels in the matter of numbers, but to this it may be replied that it is the custom of theater builders, as a rule, to use part of their space for hotels, so that when the performance proves to be too dry their patrons can make their way through a convenient doorway or arcade to the place where they crack ice and give you two for a quarter. Aside from the hotels adjoining theaters there are at least half a dozen big hotels of the old type and twice that number of "apartment" hotels in course of erection in this city. One of the most prominent examples is that which is already towering toward the sky on the site of the old St. Cloud at Forty-second street and Broadway, while immediately across the street the enormous Pabst, which at present is only one of the architect's blue prints, will dispute with its neighbor the right to be recognized for three or five miles every way. There will be a great hotel where the Sturtevant used to stand and which has nearly disappeared now, while up town, above Longacre square, there are so many new hotels building, built or planned, that the mind cannot comprehend them.

The increasing height of the New York skyscraper presents some nice problems in elevator accommodations. The demand on the elevators increases rapidly with the added height, and construction of both elevators and buildings has to be modified accordingly. Some remarkable developments along this line occur in the Park Row buildings, whose elevators frequently carry 15,000 people in twelve hours. This building is the largest and tallest office building in the world. It is located in Park row, opposite the postoffice. It measures 382 feet to the tops of the two towers and 309 feet to the main roof. It has twenty-nine stories, which contain 1,125 offices. Six thousand persons spend the day in the building. Eighteen thousand letters are delivered in it daily, their distribution requiring the services of three special carriers.

There is now in New York one place, at least, where women, as well as men, can have their shoes mended while they wait. They don't have long to wait, for here, by the aid of modern machinery, women's shoes are soled and heeled in from twenty minutes to half hour, while their owners sit in comforable chairs in the shop's waiting room.

This place is in the shopping district, and women employed in the stores roundabout are among its customers. They take advantage of the luncheon hour to have their shoes mended while they wait. Another somewhat novel feature of the work done at this place consists in the repairing of shoes left by women shopping who, their shopping over, stop here again and get the shoes to carry home, repaired.

The whole business of repairing shoes while you wait is comparatively new. It has all sprung up within twenty years. The first shop of the kind in New York was in the Bowery, with a man at work in the window while others were seen busy inside. Chairs and newspapers were provided for the waiting customers, whose shoes the busy shoemakers were at work on.

This shop, as a novelty, was described in the newspapers. Now there are in this, and in other cities, too, many shops in which men's shoes are repaired while you wait, quite as a matter of course; what was once a novelty having now become a regular feature of the business.

The repairing of women's shoes in this manner is something still comparatively novel here. The concern in this city that mends women's shoes while you wait has a branch in Buffalo and another in Rochester. At its Rochester branch it has been mending women's shoes in this way for years.

It is possible to overdo a good thing. An enthusiastic supporter of the crusade against mashers was pulled into court recently charged with assault. Replying to the questions of the judge the would-be gallant said:

"Yes, I struck him, judge; any gentleman would have done the same thing. He was making 'goo goo' eyes at a woman passenger, and I did not propose to let a man insult a woman who happened to be without a male escort."

"I didn't insult any lady. This fellow struck me without a word of warning. We had no dispute whatever. He just stood up and landed a blow on my face," responded the victim.

"I saw him ogling a woman who sat in a cross seat some distance away. He chirped to her to attract her attention and acted like one of those mashers you hear about," went on the assailant.

"It was my wife who sat in the cross seat and I was trying to call her attention to one of the pictures in the car," the victim explained.

"I don't believe she is your wife," the assailant responded.

"Here she is," rejoined the victim, as he beckoned to a woman who stepped upon the bridge and said she was his wife.

"Well, I only wanted to act the part of a chivalrous gentleman and protect women from insult," the assailant declared.

An apology satisfied the court and the victim.

Room for Expansion.

Indianapolis News.

When we read that the Department of Commerce and Labor will occupy the whole of an eight-story building of 164 rooms, and still have a number of its overflow bureaus accommodated elsewhere, it makes us wonder where and how all this work was done before the Department of Commerce and Labor went into business.

IS IT GOOD LEGAL AUTHORITY?

Report of the Coal Strike Commission and the Omaha Courts.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Judge Dickinson of Omaha, in granting an injunction against picketing, said that the chief authority by which he was moved to grant the temporary order was the report of the Anthracite Coal Strike commission, which was made by a number of persons from different walks of life, including members of labor organizations.

It is an extraordinary thing that the report of the strike commission should be cited as authority for the action of a judge on the bench in a matter where the letter of the law was the sole guide upon which he was entitled to reply. The coal strike commission had no legal authority whatever back of it. In no sense was it a legal tribunal. Its members may be regarded as arbitrators, but they had no authority to enforce their award. The finding of arbitrators may often be enforced in the courts, but in the anthracite case the decision was of such a nature that it could not be enforced by legal process. The object of the appointment of the commission was the resumption of work in the mines, and both sides of the controversy agreed to be bound by the decision. The men went to work before the decision was rendered, but there was no way to compel them to remain at work after the decision was given if they had chosen not to do so.

The president admitted that he had no shadow of authority to appoint this commission, and did not do so until he was satisfied that a settlement would be popular. Even then he assumed to act simply as an individual. Subsequently congress undertook to pay the arbitrators, as though they had been appointed by the president in his official capacity, but this did not give an authority of law to the transaction. It had no more legal validity than the decision of a country debating society.

The reasonableness of the decision of the strike commission is, of course, another question. Insofar as the views expressed commend themselves to reason and common sense, to the sentiment of fair play, to a conception of right and justice, they may well be accepted by all concerned. But that is a very different matter from giving them authority as an adjudged case. The distinction often made between moral and positive law is that the requirements of the former are commanded because they are right, while those of the latter are right because they are commanded. This is very nearly coincident with the legal distinction between mala in se and mala prohibita—things wrong in themselves and others wrong because they are prohibited. So an authority in a legal sense is an adjudged case, which is binding whether the reasoning by which it is supported is satisfactory or not. It has the effect of positive law. Such an authority can only be furnished by a competent tribunal when deciding an actual controversy of which it has jurisdiction. The anthracite strike commission had no jurisdiction of the questions submitted to it, was in no sense a legal tribunal, and therefore incapable of settling any question of law. That its decision should be gravely cited by a judge in a case involving only legal technicalities is a striking illustration of the dangers incident to a resort to expedients outside the law for the settlement of controversies. The strike commission was composed of eminent gentlemen, not all of them learned in the law, and it rendered a real service to the public that was suffering from the strike, but its views are in no sense a guide for legal tribunals in the discharge of the duty incumbent on them to interpret the law as they find it written in the books.

PERSONAL NOTES.

A Chicago man who recently inherited a million-dollar fortune has taken a position as a waiter. There is no curbing the greed for wealth.

Alexander Williamson, who was the tutor of Abraham Lincoln's younger children, died on Tuesday at his home in Brooklyn. He was 89 years old.

Henry Watterson called his trip to New York the other day a "purely literary mission." Henry has more to do with fireworks than literature.

Alexander Williamson, one of the three persons who were present at the deathbed of President Lincoln, died at his home in Brooklyn last Wednesday.

Corpulent persons in Sweden are to be taxed for excessive weight, because they eat too much. And the collectors, just as they do in this country, will live on the fat of the land.

Hall Caine locates the scene of the bravest deed with which he is acquainted at the vatican. "The hero of the incident in question," he writes, "was that venerable nonogenarian, Pope Leo XIII, who, on the occasion of our first interview, actually confessed that he had never read one of my books."

It is stated that when Lord Roberts comes to America in August it will be in his official capacity. King Edward has expressed a wish that his trip shall be regarded as an official one in return for the recent visits of distinguished American military officers to Great Britain.

Six Shaffer brothers, sons of John Shaffer of Highland county, Ohio, were photographed in a group at Hillsborough, O., a few days ago. The oldest is 86 years of age and the youngest 74. Their united ages amount to 480 years. Their father's children number thirteen and the children of these six brothers number, respectively, eleven, eight, nine, thirteen, twelve and five, giving the list in the order of the fathers' ages.

A GREAT VICTORY.

Saving of Millions of Postal Revenue at Last Assured.

Philadelphia Press.

The most important news from the Postoffice department in many a day is not any development of the pending investigation, but the judicial decision just rendered completely sustaining the department in its movement for the reform of the colossal abuses in second-class mail matter. The news is most succinctly told in the following personal dispatch from a high officer to the editor of the Press:

"WASHINGTON, June 5.—The court of appeals (of the District of Columbia) handed down decision today in Riverside Literature Series and Master in Music cases. Lower court reversed in both cases. Department wins at all points. Decision is sweeping, and assures ultimate success of the reform. Department hands now completely untied. The court is unanimous, and it is a great victory."

It is, indeed, a great victory for a vital public reform and for a regenerated and self-sustaining postal service. The monstrous abuses which have flooded the mails with books, advertising circulars, house organs, and so forth, under the pretext of being periodicals, at the pound rate have gone on for years, growing month by month. Two years ago the orders were issued which turned the face of the department in the opposite direction and resolutely set out to stop the wrongs. For a time the reform moved steadily and surely forward, but some of the cases were taken into court and decision pronounced against the government.

This inconsiderate judgment practically paralyzed the department for the time being, so far as the prosecution of the reform was concerned. But the department appealed; it called the giant, John G. Johnson of this city, into the case; and now it is vindicated in a decision of the higher court which completely sustains the position of the department and re-enforces its purpose. The reform will be taken up afresh and carried on with renewed vigor.

The development of wrongdoing in the department, so far as disclosures up to the present time indicate, lamentable as it is, involves a loss measured by thousands. This reform involves a saving measured by millions. There is a bright side as well as a dark side.

We cordially congratulate Postmaster General Payne and Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden, who have stood to their guns so manfully, and we especially congratulate the American people who want the most efficient and progressive postal service possible.

LAUGHING REMARKS.

"He's forever complaining of his hard luck. I wonder what's his idea of hard luck, anyway."

"It's merely the inability to fall into a soft snap."—Chicago Tribune.

Winkers—Why is it that women always dislike a prominent man who is an old bachelor?

Binkers—Because they can't say that he would never have amounted to anything if it had not been for his wife.—New York Weekly.

"Are you going to take a vacation this summer?"

"I suppose I'll have to," answered Mr. Cumrox, "although I must say I'd like to put in one summer simply attending to business and resting up."—Washington Star.

"Are you going to take a vacation trip of any sort this summer?"

"We expect to."

"Where are you going?"

"Can't say yet, but we're expecting a tornado to come along and take us somewhere."—Chicago Post.

Belshazzar beheld the writing on the wall.

"Maybe it's only the name of a new breakfast food," he faltered, trying to be brave.

Later interpretations, however, justified his worst fears.—New York Sun.

"You have only twenty-five boys at your school, I'm told, professor."

"Yes, ordinarily, but they were doubled last week."

"You don't say."

"Yes. They raided a neighboring truck patch and stole a lot of cucumbers."—Philadelphia Press.

"You do not inject enough contempt, spite and venom into that word."

"I can do no better."

"Nonsense! Speak it just as you say 'plush' when you meet a rival in a sealskin sacque."—Brooklyn Life.

"I'm sorry I brought you to the shore at all," exclaimed her mother. "The idea of your being engaged to two young men. It's shameful!"

"Oh, I don't know, ma," protested the summer girl. "Give me time; I've only been here three days."—Philadelphia Press.

"That political rival of yours went so far as to intimate that you would sell your influence for money."

"Professional jealousy, my friend," rejoined Senator Sorghum, soothingly. "He's cross because he hasn't any influence to sell."—Washington Star.

IF FOLKS WERE ALWAYS GOOD.

Somerville Journal.

This world would be a pleasant place
If folks were always good,
And all the people, young and old,
Did always as they should;
But what would the policemen do,
If nobody did wrong?
They'd surely have to go to work,
For they are well and strong.

And all the judges in the courts,
They'd lose their places, sure,
And all the ministers would find
Their jobs would not endure;
For all their preaching would be thought
Unnecessary, quite,
If no one in the world did wrong,
And everyone did right.

And countless other people, too,
Would find that they must change
Their daily occupations, and
Their new lives would be strange.
The lawyers, watchmen, locksmiths—yes,
And hosts of others would
Most certainly be out of date,
If folks were always good!

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